

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
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**THE GOD-MAN**  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
Mental Summary  
Chapter One

<b>Signs of Weakness</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>	<b>Signs of Strength</b>	<b>Scripture references</b>
<b>Confused</b>	Satan blinds mind	Cover every area of life under blood of Jesus. Bind Satan off all areas.	Mind of Christ	Nehemiah 8:10 Psalm 28:7-8 Psalm 34, 46, 91 Psalm 42 Ecclesiastes 5
<b>Double-minded</b>	Mind not renewed by God's Word	Cast out all thoughts contrary to God's Word.	To live is Christ	Isaiah 26:3, 12-13, Isaiah 30:15-18, Isaiah 40:29, 31 Hosea 4:6 Joel 3:10
<b>Apathetic (withdrawn)</b>	Leaning to own or others' understanding	Bring mind under Spirit's control (mind of Christ).	Purposes to do will and pleasure of Father.	Matthew 6:25-34 Matthew 26:6-9 Matthew 27:1-5
<b>Fantasizing (escape)</b>	Lack of wisdom or understanding	Refuse self or negative impulsive thinking.	Knows the Father and who he is in Christ.	Mark 14:68-71 John 21:15 Romans 12:2 1 <sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:1-16
<b>Independent / dependent</b>	Deceived – believing lies (contrary to God's Word and will)	Renew mind with God's Word	Does everything with all heart to the glory of God in Jesus' name.	1 <sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-11 2 <sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:3-5 Philippians 4:4-8 Colossians 3:1-2
<b>Rebellious</b>	Asserting self-will	Think on God and goodness.	Sets mind on things above, not beneath.	1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-24
<b>Selfish</b>	Demonic attacks	Cast all cares on the Lord (no fear or worry). God is with you.	Seeks first kingdom of God	Hebrews 13:5-6 James 1:5-8 James 3:13-18
<b>Poverty (lack) thinking</b>		Know you are loved by God – no need to strive for love or affection.	Trusts the Lord for everything, leans not to own understanding.	1 <sup>st</sup> Peter 1:17-19 1 <sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7
<b>Helpless and hopeless</b>			Acknowledges Lord in all ways, knowing the Lord will direct path.	Read all of Proverbs
<b>Lack of control / in control</b>			Knows love of God; looks nowhere else for love.	Read all of Ecclesiastes

<b>Signs of Weakness</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>	<b>Signs of Strength</b>	<b>Scripture references</b>
<b>Impulsive / compulsive – driven</b>			Knows God is source	
<b>Unclean thoughts</b>			Knows God is present always	
<b>Thinking about yourself</b>			Knows all the Father has for me will come to me (no competing or striving).	
			Allows the Lord to occupy time with gladness of heart.	

**THE GOD-MAN**  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
 Emotional Summary  
 Chapter Two

<b>Signs of Weakness</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>	<b>Signs of Strength</b>	<b>Scripture references</b>
<b>Mood swings</b>	Looking to sources other than God.	Discipline mind in Word of God (meditation and action).	Does not change (is stable)	Nehemiah 8:10 Psalm 28:7-8 Psalm 34, 46, 91 Psalm 42
<b>Anger and/or violence</b>	Fear of man	Let peace of God rule in heart and mind.	Fruit of Spirit	Ecclesiastes 5 Isaiah 26:3, 12-13 Isaiah 30:15-18
<b>Bitterness and unforgiveness</b>	Seeking recognition, love, and greatness	Set thoughts on heavenly viewpoint.	No negatives	Isaiah 40:29, 31 Hosea 4:6 Joel 3:10
<b>Jealousy</b>	No peace or contentment	Be thankful in all circumstances. The Lord is in control.	No fear, worry, or stress	Matthew 6:25-34 Matthew 26:6-9 Matthew 27:1-5 Mark 14:68-71
<b>Fear, worry, stress</b>	Control and authority issues	Do not seek vengeance.	God's peace rules in heart and mind	John 21:15 Romans 12:2
<b>Stubbornness</b>	Rely on self rather than God's grace	Be quiet and confident in the Lord.	Forgiven and forgiving	1 <sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:1-16 1 <sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-11 Philippians 4:4-8
<b>Depression</b>	Demonic attacks	Rely on God's grace.	Enjoys life in Christ with others	Colossians 3:1-2
<b>Competition and comparison</b>		Do not judge, and show mercy.	No problems with God	1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-24
<b>Laziness</b>		Repent and humble self under God.	Looks for God's glory and the good praise report	Hebrews 13:5-6 James 1:5-8 James 3:13-18
<b>Lying</b>		Do it Gods Way: forgiveness, justification, mortification (humility), acknowledgement.	No compromise f God's Word for anyone or anything	1 <sup>st</sup> Peter 1:17-19 1 <sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7
<b>Cheating</b>			Patient and kind	Read all of Proverbs
<b>Insecurity / false security</b>			Hates evil, loves good	Read all of Ecclesiastes

<b>Signs of Weakness</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>	<b>Signs of Strength</b>	<b>Scripture references</b>
<b>Lust of flesh</b>			Knows God's plans are for good, not evil: plans to prosper and give hope for everything and future.	
<b>Guilt</b>				
<b>Grief</b>				
<b>Denial</b>				

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
Have the Mind of Christ  
Chapter Three

Rich Toward God

The Lord would have us love His people and care for them, for He is coming soon. How important that we be found ready to meet Him!

If you are going after worldly desires, your mind is not in the right place. Your heart is on the things of the world rather than on the heavenly things of God.

The devil came to Jesus in Matthew, chapter four and lay out the whole world (and everything in it: wealth, fame, fortune, glamour, and glitter). Jesus basically said, "I am not interested."

*"Since you are risen with Christ, set your mind [affection] on things above, not on the things beneath."* (Colossians 3:1) Many of God's people are not living the abundant life that Jesus said they should have. They are not above the world; they are in it and of it. When all the pressures of the world come, people get upset, which indicates unbelief, wrong values and wrong priorities. They have set their hearts on "stuff" rather than on God.

Have you felt weak and helpless? Signs of spiritual weakness are unbelief, spiritual apathy, false beliefs, ignorance, lack of desire for the Word of God, lack of prayer, disobedience to God's Word, or lack of seeking the Lord's wisdom, direction, and purpose. Jesus is not Lord of all areas of life.

Be willing to put what you want on the altar and give it to God, for He may not want it for you. He will take the desire away if you honestly put it on the altar. The thief has led many people down the primrose path with false desires, visions, dreams, and ideas. Then people wonder, *I thought God wanted that for me.* If He wanted it for you, it would still be there. How many times do you have to hit your head against a wall to see that it is not there? It is a mistake to try to change somebody into your image. Have you found that God was changing you, but you did not want to change?

If you have found that you are stingy, it is because you are not believing God and not looking to God as your source, or you are holding on to what God has given (that He wants to use).

The old expression “saving up for the rainy day” is a curse. What you have saved for is going to be used up on things that you did not want it to be used for. In Deuteronomy, chapter eight, the children of Israel walked in the wilderness for 40 years and their sandals did not wear out.

People usually think that greed is acquiring and wanting to get more things, but greed is also holding on (fear of letting go). Everything belongs to the Lord, and the Lord is generous. As soon as you do what He directs you to do with His goods, then He will make a way for other things to come about.

I knew a fellow who just lived life, waiting for his retirement so that he could travel. He bought a big motor home, and he planned to travel around the country seeing and doing things. However, as soon as he retired, a fear came upon him, and he never drove that motor home anywhere. It stayed where it was parked, and he eventually died, never going anywhere or doing anything.

Jesus told us about the rich man who built his big barns and filled them up, expecting to sit back and live the life of leisure. The Lord came and said, “Oh, fool, tonight your soul is required of you.” In other words, “You are checking out.” *“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”* (Luke 12:21)”

Who gives you the ability to acquire wealth? Deuteronomy, chapter 8, says the Lord gives it. It says never to forget who it belongs to. It is not ours to do what we want to do with it. What does the Lord want done with it? How does He want to do it? People say, “I do not have to worry about that because I am not rich.” You are denying who you are in Christ Jesus. Having riches and wealth means being content in the place you are in, with a God who is more than enough.

We never lack in Christ Jesus. We lack when we get outside of Him. Many times it is in the mind that we lack. I know very wealthy people who are poor because they are bound to their riches. They are bound to what they have. How sad.

### New Minds

We are hid with Christ in God, and the devil does not see us when we are in Christ. He only sees Jesus. We are in a safe place under the shadow of the Almighty. We start to understand this is who we are. We have a spirit, a mind, and a body. When we are born again, our spirits come alive to God, but our minds and bodies need to be renewed. (Romans 12:1-2)

Our spirits love God's people. The church, the Body of Christ, is God's finest creation of which each of us are a part. It is the most important thing to God's heart. If we are in Christ Jesus, then the foremost thing on our heart is loving God and loving His Body.

We have the mind of Christ, and our minds are not to be conformed to the world, but transformed. (Romans 12:2) "... *Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*" (Ephesians 4:23-24 NKJV)

When God saved us and we were born again, He gave us the mind of Christ. Now we need to develop that mind. The mind consists of the intellect, the emotions, and the will. The will is the place where choices are made. The intellect receives the understanding that God gives. Emotions are God's feelings.

Have you found that your emotions can get out of order? The reason many people are not experiencing the abundant life in Jesus is because they do not see themselves the way God has made them to be, and they are taught to cope with their emotions. Or they are taught to demonstrate their anger, get rid of their frustration, but do it constructively. In other words, do not beat up somebody else. Punch a punching bag instead. Let your aggressions out. That is world counsel, not God's counsel.

The Word says, *“Be angry but do not sin. Do not let the sun go down upon your wrath.”* (Ephesians 4:26 NKJV) It will separate you from God. You may not be able to be angry just for a moment and end it there, but it continues in you. That is not the mind of Christ operating. Allow your new mind to line up with your new spirit. The old mind can never line up with the new spirit. We can absolutely never make our mind, emotions, and choices line up with our new spirit because that old mind is full of unbelief, doubt, fear, selfishness, greed, rebellion, independence, and looking out for self. In a secondary emotion, the root is always self.

When Jesus got angry, it was for the moment, and then it was over. It was righteous anger. God gets angry but it is for the moment, and He deals with the situation. Justice and truth deal with the situation. David asked the Lord not to let His anger last long. (God has emotions).

The spiritual fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, meekness, and self-control) are also emotions. God will not renovate our minds. They have to be transformed. The mind of Christ is perfect. It is holy.

*“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, enabling you to will and do His good pleasure.”* (Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV) God will help you to do His will.

The devil blinds people’s minds. If he cannot stop you from receiving the good news of Jesus (salvation), and the love of God, then he will go after your mind again. He hits your mind to keep you from going to Jesus and believing in Him, believing in His love, in miracles, and all the good things that God has for you. He blinds people’s minds lest they receive the glorious light of the gospel and be set free. If he cannot stop you, then he will go after blinding your mind from doing the will of God. He keeps you away from having the mind of Christ. He tells people that it is okay to be angry, it is okay to be bitter, it is okay to be unforgiving, and it is okay to speak your mind (if you are speaking your mind, you are not speaking God’s mind.). It is okay to be jealous and envious, it is okay to choose to separate yourself from somebody. If God would have separated himself from us, we would all be damned and going to hell.

The devil tries to blot out the mind of Christ. He uses the old unrenewed mind and the flesh, to do it. God is saying through the apostle Paul, *“He is working in us enabling us to will and to do His good pleasure,”* (Philippians 2:13 NKJV) and there are no excuses anymore. Many Christians do not have the abundant life because they are not submitting themselves to the will of God, nor are they doing what God says to do.

### Submit Your Mind to God

Jesus only said and did what His Father in heaven gave Him to do and to say (perfect obedience), because He had the mind of God. He had the mind of Christ. He said, “I come, O Lord, to do your will. *My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me.* (John 4:34 NKJV) I do not live to do my own thing.” The world has taught people to do their own thing and be their own person.

Your spirit can be loving God, but your mind is blocking you from God’s abundant life, will, and purpose. In other words, you are saved, but you are not experiencing all the blessing of God because you are not renewing your mind with the Word of God. Your mind is like a computer, and it needs to be transformed by being renewed. You need the mind of Christ to do the will of God.

Find out God’s will in the Word of God, and purpose to do it. Then start doing it. As long as you think you are just human, you use the copout that you just have emotions. You are not just human anymore, and you have been transformed by God working in you. Your mind is not your own. Your mind was the product of your parents, friends, the environment, and the thoughts which were all separate from God. They *were* from the flesh. But when the Lord comes into your life, He changes you if you allow it.

Thinking that you have a right to do something contrary to the will of God means that Jesus Christ is not your Lord. Stubbornness is as the sin of idolatry. Rebellion is as of the sin of witchcraft, opposing God. What an awakening when you realize that you are not as Christian as you thought you were. Maybe you are not really a Christian if you think you can continue to willfully, knowingly go against God. God wants you to have the abundant life, but you have

to humble yourself under His mighty hand and submit your mind to Him.

*“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”*

(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:19) The body includes the mind. Your spirit, mind, and body belong to God. The mind of Christ possessed by God was motivated, instructed, directed, and guided by the Spirit of God. He actually gave us the mind of Christ, but it is not a physical brain.

Your brain will die with you and will decompose in the ground, but your spirit and your soul (your personality) will either go on with God forever or go to the place of fire forever. This has to do with the eternal. You have absolutely no right to think your own thoughts and do your own thing. If you want to be your own person, then you will go to hell with the rest. If Jesus is your Lord, He controls your every thought, word, and deed. That is where God wants to go with it.

The devil cannot possess people’s spirits once they are born again, but he can influence their minds. The unrenewed mind is where oppression comes. Paul said, *“Be angry but sin not. Do not let the sun go down upon your wrath, neither give place (or opportunity) – [in the Greek it means a home] – to a devil.”* (Ephesians 4:26-27) He was speaking to Christians. Your life can be tormented if you do not receive the love of God, let things go, and forgive. This is very, very important. Many people live in the soul realm. Since they do not rely on their spirits, they are relying on their minds. They are still leaning to their own understanding, still doing their own thing. Such people just added Jesus to their lives, but He is not their Lord.

A person with the mind of Christ allows God to direct everything through the Word of God. I input God’s truth into my mind, which transforms and renews it, and then I know the acceptable and pleasing will of God. Have you noticed that your attitude needed to change when you read the Word of God? Have you seen you were really disobedient when you thought that you were obedient? You thought you were submitted, but you really were not. You were angry and upset because God wanted you to do something you did not want to do. Did you go ahead and do whatever you wanted to do

anyway? Without the blessing and the covering of God you can have the abundant life that Jesus promised.

Hence, there are lukewarm people who have a form of godliness but deny the power of godliness. They are denying God's power that is working in them to enable them to will and to do His good pleasure. God can change your mind, but why should He have to? He is not going to change His mind about anything. (Numbers 23:19) He is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of man that He will repent or change His mind. *"Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"* In other words, God is going to do exactly what He says, and we have the mind of Christ.

God should not have to change your mind. He should not have to coddle you. If you are His, then you will follow His leading, and if you are not, then that is why you are having problems. A stubborn, independent, rebellious, self-willed child is not a blessed child.

The problem has been that people have been taught it is okay to bad-mouth your spouse, your children, your parents, or anybody else out there. I really have wondered about the way Christians talk about the president. They ought to fall on their faces and repent. God says to honor authorities whether they are evil or good. That is the heart of a believer. That is the mind of Christ. All authority comes from God. Jesus always honored the authorities. He loved them. He spoke truth to them and was willing to accept the consequences.

We need to ask ourselves, is this what Jesus would do? Is this what Jesus would say? Because He is our example. What was His way of dealing with situations? Not, "if it feels good, do it."

People always want to fit in. You have to "be your own person," and yet you have to fit in. I say, fit in with what? God does not do that. He has His way. To live is Christ. *"For me to live is Christ,"* (Philippians 1:21) Paul said. Be about God's business. Advance the kingdom of heaven. Love the people. Love God first, love others second. Love what God is doing in you.

Where does the mind of Christ set its affections? Where does it set its heart? Jesus had everything, but He did not have anything

because things did not have Him. He wore some of the finest clothes made in that day. His garment was so valuable that the soldiers at the cross would not cut it up.

A mind left to itself will go to the gutter. *“He will keep them in perfect peace whose minds are stayed [fixed] on the Lord.”* (Isaiah 26:3)  
That is the mind of Christ.

*“Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5) The Word of God is the mind of Christ.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
The Mind, Romans, Chapter Seven  
Chapter Four

We need to develop our spirit man in Christ Jesus and be who God wants us to be. People have not seen themselves as perfect people walking on the earth like Jesus; however, we have the same ability as Jesus when He walked the earth.

Most teaching you hear on television is geared toward the soul. There is nothing to really build up or energize the spirit man. It is who we really are, and the other is who we think we are. Christians are actually acting like they are schizophrenic when part of them wants to serve God and part of them does not.

There is more to life than just being saved. Those who stop there have not grown up in the faith to become everything the Lord wants them to become.

The mind (the area of the intellect, emotions, and will) is the area that has to be renewed. Since you already have the mind of Christ when you become born again, you cannot be depressed, worried, fearful, downcast, or hyped up.

I was with a person the other day who has megalomania (a psychotic behavior) and lives in a deceptive world with illusions of grandeur. *“As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”* (Proverbs 23:7 KJV) I was trained in the arts of the mind, and God has called me to “fix” people. No, not as a mind reader. I operate by the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit does not bring attention to Himself; he brings attention to Jesus. A mind that brings attention to self is suspect.

There is a high side of pride and a low side, and both lead to death. A test to see if you are in the Spirit of God or if you are into yourself would be: Who is getting the attention?

- In Romans, chapter seven, Paul talked about how he had a struggle with sin. *“Did that which is good, then, become death*

*to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.”* (Romans 7:13) In other words, if you do not know what God says is right and what God says is wrong, then you will think everything is permissible. We live in a world that does not like absolutes. It likes to do its own thing and “be your own person,” which leads to selfish anarchy. There are two year old tyrants running around.

What God has done in His love is set down what is right and what is wrong so we will know the difference. We can do what is right and be blessed and stay away from what is wrong. The carnal mind always rationalizes and justifies. It tries to make you look good. You can dress a pig up, clean it up, put a bow on its tail, but it is going back to the mud. It goes back to its nature. God has given us a new nature in Christ Jesus.

- *“We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.”* (Romans 7:14) That was the old you. Paul was not saying that the law has been done away with. He was saying that if I am doing the law, then I am not oppressed by the law, and it is not a burden to me. If we are doing what God says, then the police will have a better life. If you are doing the law, you do not have to be afraid of the law or the enforcers of it. When I was growing up, law enforcement officers were held in great respect and honor. I still contend for that position because if those men and women were not doing what they do, we could not live in peace. Chaos would rule in our neighborhoods, cities, and the world.

We have to renew our thinking to receive the mind of Christ. When I was pastor in a denominational church, part of the confessions we spoke every Sunday was “I, a poor miserable, wretched sinner confess unto thee O, Lord, all my sins which are ever before me.” I thought I had gotten them behind me, so I could no longer confess it. As a result, I could no longer do my duties with integrity of heart and faith because I did not believe that.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*" (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17) No, your sin is not ever before you. The glory of God is ever before you. The presence of God is out ahead of you. He is preparing the way for whatever He has.

*"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21) I am the righteousness of God in Christ. Jesus who knew no sin was made sin for me. He took my poor, miserable, wretched sin condition at the cross and He gave me His right standing with the Father in heaven.

The problem with some people is, yes, they know they have the mind of Christ but they do not have a clue what the mind of Christ really is. How can you rise up to BE who God wants you to be if you have a false belief system? If you believe you are a sinner, yes, sinners are saved by grace, but that is the old you, and Jesus saved you from that.

Paul was saying, "I do not understand what I do, for what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do." It means you do not have the ability to do what you really want to do and be who you really want to be. The old you had absolutely no power to go to God or to do anything that God said. Before you can really come into the new life, you have to die to the old thought that you are a poor, miserable, wretched sinner. If you are a Christian, it is absolutely not an option to have bitterness and unforgiveness in your life. As Christians, we bring heaven to people.

- *"For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature."* (Romans 7:15-18)

Jesus died on the cross to take away the sinful nature. That old separated-from-God nature. Jesus is now in us. The Spirit of the Living God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is in us.

- *“For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.”* (Romans 7:19) The church has taught people that they may have the desire, but they cannot carry it out, which is futility... and brings condemnation and wanting to give up. Then the thought will come, *Maybe you are not a Christian.* (Damned if you do, and damned if you do not).

If you belong to God, how is it that sin is living in you? Get rid of it in Jesus' name, for it should not still be living there. It is not in your spirit because your spirit is perfect, born of incorruptible seed, and you belong to Him. Your spirit should be submitted to God. How can you have Jesus Christ in you and believe that there is nothing good in you at the same time?

I was outside meditating before the Lord one day, and a cold wind began blowing. A dog in the neighborhood kept barking across the way. My spirit rose up and I said, “Stop, wind; cease in Jesus' name.” I told the dog, “Be muzzled in Jesus' name.” Then I went back to my quiet time. Soon the wind ceased. The dog stopped barking. I had a fun time with God. This verse came to me, *“Whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth is loosed in heaven.”* (Matthew 16:19) In other words, take dominion. “I have given it to you,” the Lord tells us.

Many Christians are ignorant of the Word of God, and the church has taught from the pulpit that you are nothing but a poor, miserable, wretched sinner saved by grace. Actually, you used to be, and there was a time when you needed to hear that. But when you are a child of God, you do not need to hear that you are never going to amount to anything, cannot do anything, and are separated from God. You are one with Him in Jesus' name.

- *“For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep doing.”* (Romans 7:19) My question is, why not? Understand, Paul was building a case here. He was saying that is how it was, but it was not going to stay that way. We are moving on in all that God has.
- *“For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it.”* (Romans 7:19-20) You have

to bring every thought captive to the mind of Christ. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5) There is no unbelief or negativity, weakness, poverty, or fear with the mind of Christ.

Paul was saying that his spirit man who was the real Paul was not doing this. *“Offer your bodies as living sacrifices.”* (Romans 12:1)

- *“Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.”* (Romans 6:13)

When you know that you are the temple of the Holy Spirit, your mind is being renewed. *“Do not conform any longer 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) Not conformed to the world. God does not want pollution. Jesus said that it is not what goes in that defiles but what comes out. See, it is what comes out that causes what to go in. It is the thinking. It is the cravings, the desires of the flesh.

- *“For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it.”* (Romans 7:19-20)

You have to make a transference. Since your spirit does not sin, it is not separated from God, and it is the real you. Realize who you are in Christ. Who your spirit is. What you are about. You are not separated from Christ, you are one with Him. You are a child of the most high God, and you have dominion over all elements. You have dominion over everything in the name of the Lord. You are dearly loved by the Father who has a good plan for your life.

You need to understand the mind of Christ because that is where the will is. (The good I would, I do not.) You actually choose to step out of heaven and step down to this earth, when your true position is “Risen with Christ.” Set your heart, your mind, your affections on the things above, not on the things beneath. (Colossians 3:1-2) When

you choose to do something outside of the will of God, you are choosing to walk at a low level, separated from God.

The Lord's desire is that we not sin, but if we should, we have an advocate with the Father, our Lord Jesus. Separation from God is the exception, not the norm.

Paul said, *"So I find this law at work. When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. (Romans 7:21)* It is always around us, but so what? We have dominion over it in Christ Jesus. Stand up and be strong in the Lord. We do not have to give in to it in Jesus' name. We do not have to give into fear or worry. We do not have to give into the threats or garbage that someone is dumping on us. Be quick, and ask the person to pray. Take heed what you hear. Nowhere in the Bible do you see Jesus allowing somebody to dump their negativity on Him. Do not let yourself be polluted.

There are some people who do not want to get out of their situations. They do not want to be helped. They do not want to be fixed. There are times when you are not even talking with a person; you are talking with their devil. Have you ever tried to get a word in edgewise with a devil? Some people do not hear a word you say because they are bent on what they want to say. One time I put the phone down for at least a half an hour and when I picked it back up, the person had not missed a beat. When I found the right Holy Ghost break, I said, "Come out in Jesus' name."

- *"For in my inner being [spirit] I delight in God's law."* (Romans 7:22) To the Christians who say they are not under the law of God anymore, I say, "The third use of the law is to guide your life, to show you to do right before God." I am not under the law if I am doing what God says. In other words, if I am going 70 mph on the freeway, I do not have to be concerned, but there is a time when I do not keep the speed limit if the conditions are severe. The safety rule may be that you go 35 mph. One time we were going five miles an hour from Michigan to Indiana in a blizzard. The Lord will give you wisdom and insight.
- *"But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a*

*prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.”*

(Romans 7:23) Paul’s spirit wanted to do the right thing, but there was another law working in his mind – the unrenewed mind, not the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ will line up with the spirit. When the spirit, mind, and body are lined up, perfect peace, health and blessing happen.

Sickness may be caused by the mind. It has to be brought back under control because health flows through the spirit and God’s Word flows through the spirit. *“The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord.”* (Proverbs 20:27 KJV) God directs us through our spirits, not through our minds.

Being intelligent is wonderful, but that does not make you spiritual. In fact, intelligence can get in the way of your spirit. God’s intelligence is higher learning. You always want to be learning and growing, but you want *His* higher learning.

*“Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”* (Ephesians 3:20 KJV)

God’s power works in our spirits, but it has to get through the mind. That is why the mind needs to be renewed so that we might know what God wants to do.

- *“For in my inner being [my spirit] I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind.”* (Romans 7:22-23) The mind of Christ operates by a law. The mind of Christ operates in peace, joy, and it does what the Holy Spirit wants. Righteousness in the Holy Spirit. It is conformed to the will of God.

When we give up our life to Jesus, we receive His life... *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:19) My spirit, mind and body belong to God. In other words, I gave up my free will freely to God. I am completely possessed with the Holy Spirit. Any thinking other than what God says is disobedience. Willful, knowing, continued disobedience says that I am not a child of God. Rebellion is of the devil. An independent spirit is of the devil.

For example, you look for a church that will tell you that it is okay for you to do whatever you want to do. There is always someone, somewhere along the line that will agree with you because they are just as carnal and in need of deliverance as you are. There will be somebody that does not care about you and is not telling you the truth. They just want you to come and be a part of what they are doing. I say, birds of a feather flock together.

Many people are sacrificing the truth, they are sacrificing the love of God, they are sacrificing the power of God, and they are sacrificing the abundant life for nothing. They are going to get nothing from it, but it promises everything. The devil always promises everything. The world always promises everything. That moment of rebellion against God is not where I would want to be. A baby should not be the consequence of sin. That moment of bitterness could take you to hell. People think they still have time and they do not need Jesus today. How do you know you have time? You could be in that car and end up dead. It happens just like that. I have seen it too many times over the years. It should be, "Lord willing, I will see you another day. I will see you another hour. I live in that expectancy that God is with me, and He is working His plan, and I am going to finish what He has given."

- *"...the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members."* (Romans 7:23)

What was the blood of Jesus for? To take away all my sins and forgive me.

- *"What a wretched man I am!"* (Romans 7:24) [That was the case for every one of us.] *"There is none that doeth good, no not one."* (Psalm 53:3 KJV) *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)

This kind of thinking will always keep you dependent on the cross: "I, a poor miserable wretched sinner, confess unto thee, O God, all my sins and iniquities which are ever before me." We should be dependent on the cross, but not because of sins that are past, present, or future. The cross was our salvation. I thank God every day for saving me, but because He saved me, I am not looking at the

sins that are ever before me. I am looking at the good works of God that are ever before me. I am looking at what God wants to do in me and through me (because of the blood of Jesus) that He has prepared for me to do. I am God's good workmanship. (Ephesians 2:10) People stop at verse 8 and 9 – *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."* But verse 10 says that I am God's good workmanship. How could you ever think there is nothing good in you?

All things are possible to us in Christ Jesus. We have to get it in our heads. We have to start to understand what the Lord is saying.

- *"Oh wretched man that I am. Who can save me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24)* You have heard that the body is no good. It is full of sin.

In Greek thought there were the Stoics and the Epicureans. The Epicureans were the "feel good" folks. If it feels good, do it. Pleasure, pleasure. The Stoics thought that the body was not good. It was suspicious, and no pleasure was allowed. They sat in hard chairs, they went to extremes and did everything to keep pleasure away.

Many people think that as a Christian, you cannot have any pleasure or fun. They do not know how much fun doing good can really be. I have more fun than any unbeliever could ever have. I have more fun than a whole lot of Christians have because they are bound up in: *I cannot do anything. I might miss the will of God. I have got to keep myself holy.*

A certain man once said that if you keep your car in the driveway nothing will ever happen to it. I remember very vividly that one day a car came sliding down the snow covered road into that guy's driveway and smashed his car.

Doing the will of God is really the greatest fun and pleasure there is. Someday the Lord will tell you when you stand before Him, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into all my pleasures that I have prepared for you." The Lord has fun. He has pleasures

forevermore, the Bible says. It is a lie of the devil that keeping the commandments is bondage or slavery. The devil is independent, rebellious, and going to hell. He does not want to submit to God. He does not like submission.

*“I come, O Lord, to do your will.”* (Hebrews 10:9)

Jesus and Paul are saying, “I come, O Lord, to do your will. I live, O Lord, to do your will. I love to do your commands.” We gave our free will to God. We are called bondservants. A bondservant is a person who has been set free by the master. Since Jesus paid the price for our separation from God, He bought us back from the devil through His own blood, the ransom of God to save us. Now we belong to God. He comes to each one of us and says, “I have set you free. You are no longer a slave to sin, the devil, to sickness, poverty, to death. I set you free. I love you. You are free.” And our response is, “Father, you have set me free, and I can do anything I want to do, but I freely from my heart love you because you first loved me. I love you now, and I choose to be your servant. I choose to serve you. I give up all rights to self, and I choose to follow you and serve you because I love you. That is where I stand.”

It is not that I have got to do this, or I am made to do that. No, I love to do it. I love to do the will of Him who saved me and loved me. I love to do what my Lord has given me to do.

Do not let the lie get into your head. Many times teenagers have the idea that they are going to break off from dad and mom and do their own thing. No, there is blessing there with your parents. Do what you do with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. Such is the attitude of the mind of Christ.

- *“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from the body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law.”*  
(Romans 7:24-25)

He was a servant to God’s law. Reject the thought that it is not a good thing. To “be your own person” is rebellion. It is devil talk and thinking. He left his position next to God in the heavenlies because

he wanted to be like God. He wanted to be God. He wanted God dethroned and he wanted to run everything.

- *“...but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. (Romans 7:25)*

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)*

Condemnation is gone because through Christ Jesus the law of the spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. I am truly free. He or she whom the Son has set free is free indeed. Tell sickness to get off your body in Jesus’ name. That is your right as a child of God. Tell negative thoughts to leave you – any worthless, unproductive thoughts. It is unbelief. Tell it to go to hell. Besides, it is not your thought. You have the mind of Christ. The thought crossing your mind is not your thought if it is not of God, and you do not have to receive it. There is a supplanter out there trying to sow seeds into your thought life to make you disbelieve God. The devil cannot understand your thoughts, but he can surely put them in your head. He is a whisperer, and *“A whisperer separates chief friends.”* (Proverbs 16:28 KJV) He is trying to separate you from your chief Friend, your Lord who loves you. He tries to separate you from your parents who love you and care about your life. He tries to separate you from your pastor who loves and cares about your life. He tries to get you out there doing your own thing.

You have to say aloud, “Get out of here, get out of my head.” You cannot just try and think it away because the devil cannot hear you. *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”* (Matthew 12:34 NKJV) You need to speak forth faith in God and tell the devil to go where he needs to go.

We have the mind of Christ.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
Profitable Thinking  
Chapter Five

What Do You Have?

In the Book of John, chapter six, Jesus gave a very important directive after a miracle, the feeding of the 5,000 men (plus all the women and children). He took what they considered nothing, a few loaves and a few fish, and fed all the people. He did the miracle, and they ate until they were full and satisfied.

Then He instructed the disciples to pick up what was left over after they had distributed it. God is not stingy. Have you ever been invited to somebody's house and they watched everything you ate, or they said they were on a diet and it was not really good to eat too much? What are you going out to dinner for? To eat something. If we ask God to bless the food, it should be a happy, thankful time. Diana always prays that the calories go over to somebody that needs them, and she has faith for that. If you look at her, you can see it does not go on her.

Be thankful for the food you eat, but you may eat too much. You need to be in balance. You could be eating the right amount, but if you do not exercise, it is not enough. On the other hand, you should not dread breakfast, lunch, or dinner. The body needs sustenance. When Jesus looked out over that big crowd, He said, "They have been here all day listening to the Word of God, and they need something to eat."

He asked the disciples, "What do we have?" (Meaning, what food do we have for these people). They answered, "How are we going to feed all of them?" They were ignorant and unbelieving. They did not ask God, they just looked at what they had, and figured they did not have enough. That is a poverty mindset.

Have you found that as your wealth increased, you still did not have enough? You were still thinking like that? If you honor God with your

increase, God will give you more. You will have whatever you need to do whatever He says. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9)

Perhaps the temptation is always there that you are not going to have enough. This is poverty thinking, not God's thinking. We must catch ourselves, for if we think on that too long, we will stop giving to God, start pulling in, and not be thankful for what we do have. We will start looking at what we do not have.

I was talking to a group of preachers one day about this. They were noticing the people that had not been at the church. I said, "I do not dwell on the folks who are not here, I talk to the ones who are here. They are the ones who want something."

Many people think, *When my ship comes in*, but their ship will never come in. They need to live now with what they have at the dock. They are living their lives thinking it is greener out there somewhere else and are not appreciative of where they are and what they have. They are wasting the blessing that is right in front of them. They are wishing and hoping, and that thinking is not going to get them anything.

Look at the Word of God, and you see the mind of Christ. You actually already have the mind of Christ. Any other thoughts coming through are not of your mind and thoughts. Get the Word of God in you so that you have the right programming. The mind is playing tapes every day, and the oldies are not necessarily the goodies. You may have old tapes that need to be destroyed. They are poverty, lack, not being loved, rejection, bitterness, worry, fear, unbelief, superior or inferior thoughts — those all need to be destroyed. We need the new from God.

### Let Nothing Be Wasted

Jesus directed His disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over." (John 6:12) Jesus knew His Father, and His Father is not stingy, He is generous. The mind of Christ is generous. Jesus could have sent them all home, but that was not what His Father in heaven wanted to do. He wanted to bless them. He had given them spiritual food all day, and then He knew they had physical needs. However, they

were not concerned about their physical needs. Otherwise they would have disappeared or drifted away one by one.

He continued, "Let nothing be wasted."

There is so much waste in America. If we take a look at our lives, there is so much left over. Diana and I have sized down because our children are out of the house. I told her, "Love, you cannot cook for 10 now." She looks at me and wants me to look slim and trim, but I was taught not to waste. I know this principle. It is not godly to waste.

It bothers me sometimes when you go to a buffet and people are filling up their plates but it just sits there. Then they start talking about eating just a little. What a waste. There are starving folks out there.

We have to value and respect money too. You would be amazed at how much money is frittered away. Once that \$100 dollar bill is cashed, it is gone. It is time to manage and take a look at what we have. I know people that live very well on \$600 a month for the household, \$400 going to medication, which leaves \$200 dollars left over for food and utilities, and they are fine. They have learned the principles of life, how to manage what they have, and they do not lack anything. They do not complain about what they have, they just live life. When I watched that, it blessed my heart because we have so much that we take for granted. It is very difficult for the people that have had "stuff" to cut back, but there are times when that happens in life.

We live in a self-indulgent society. Have you become discontented and unthankful? True prosperity is knowing God. What has happened is you have some wrong thinking that has gotten into you.

Feeling you are all alone is a lie. The Lord says, "*I will never leave you or forsake you.*" He says, "*Be not covetous.*" (Hebrews 13:5.) Being covetous is a poverty attitude. It says you are not happy with what you have, you need something else. You start to wander and not appreciate what you have — spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, or in relationships.

How about going wild thanking God for your health or that your eyes see and your ears hear, that your brain has some semblance of sense, or that you can walk? I find that many people take things for granted until something goes wrong and then they start to think about it. Being selfish, indignant, bitter, or unappreciative will cause someone to leave you.

What a waste to take on somebody else's cares. When Jesus had them gather all the loaves and fish that was left over, who was He giving it to? You do not think those disciples were going to eat it, do you? Their attitude had been *Send them all home, forget them*. They did not use any of their own food to help those people. It does not say what Jesus did with the leftovers, but in God's economy it went someplace because God does not waste. If you look at creation and the way that God made everything in nature, there is no waste. Even the flies have a purpose. They clean up death.

#### Profitable or Unprofitable?

Mankind messed up God's creation by making things that do not disintegrate, like plastic. Many people's thinking is waste... and unprofitable.

*"All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful."* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:12 NKJV) Another version reads, "Not all things are profitable." Much thinking is not profitable, and *"As a man thinketh in his heart so is he."* (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV) Life is not profitable if you are believing wrong things, which means you are going to do wrong things. You will eat the fruit of your mouth (*"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"*) (Matthew 12:34 NKJV) when you are speaking all kinds of waste, or non-productive stuff.

Jesus says every word that you speak you will be held accountable for before the Father – in other words, whatever is not profitable (able to profit). Everything God says will accomplish His purpose. It is going to cause something He wants to happen.

When Jesus came to the fig tree with only leaves and no fruit, He cursed the tree. It was out of sync. It was not profitable. If the fruit tree is not producing anything, it needs to be cut down. (John 15:1-8)

Part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is making us profitable to the Master. The Lord helps us and grooms us to learn how to act like children of God. He wants us to be profitable to the kingdom of Heaven, to God, and a blessing to others around us. People need to realize that if they are children of God, then they already have the mind of Christ. God did not make your mind and body as waste when your spirit belongs to Him. If you are putting in something good and profitable (of God), then something good and profitable will be the result that comes out of that mix.

### Power in Jesus

The mind is the place where you make your choices and decisions. Your mind has to line up with your spirit, and your body has to line up with your mind and your spirit. Then you are in unity (oneness, wholeness, peace). People say it is eastern religion, but where do you think they got it? You cannot do it on your own as a person. You need God to come into harmony with yourself. In other words, the principles are good, but they do not have the power, they do not have the Lord to make it happen. God makes that all happen through Jesus. It is the gift of God. You cannot do it on your own because you are not God evolving into yourself. All those self-help guides and positive thinking out there are God principles, but there is no power to make it happen. It is like having a TV set mounted up on the wall that does not go on. You go through all the manuals, but then you find out it does not have any power. Jesus says, "You have to plug into Me and my Word. If you abide in Me and my Word, the power is on, and all that God has for you will come to you." (John 6)

Jesus says, "I know my Father. All that my Father has for me will come to me." I do not have to run all over the place trying to find it or make it happen. If I am doing what the Lord wants, and I am believing God, and I am about His business, He will make sure that I have everything I need – spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and relationship to do what He wants me to do and to be who He wants me to be. But I have to make some adjustments because the devil tries to blind my mind lest I receive the glorious light of the gospel. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4) That is where he is working, and if he cannot blind my mind from getting saved, then he is going to try to blind my mind from having the abundant life that Jesus said I

could have. An unrenewed mind needs to be renewed by the Word of God so you get God's program, and you have the power to do it once you know what to do.

You do not have to teach children to do wrong. They will just do it. You do not have to teach them to be selfish. You have to teach them what is right. God has given us His Word so that we can know what His will is, what is pleasing to Him, what the truth is.

All my life, I have been seeking God's truth. I read about all the religions, I have looked at all kinds of beliefs, and I found they are all missing the power. The great teachers and prophets are dead. The only one that is still alive is Jesus – alive forevermore, God come in the flesh.

If the great leader of a religion is dead, then he must not be God. God is not dead, contrary to what some people try to make out. He is very much alive. He reigns, rules, and controls the universe, and one of these days He is coming back to get us.

### Abundant Living

Since that is the case, *"What manner of persons ought you to be."* (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:11 NKJV) It is an abundant life when you do it God's way. He is the only one that has it. Driving fancy cars, living in mansions, and having shekels in the bank are not abundant life and living. You have to get past the world's standards. Nor is it abundance to live in a shack under a bridge.

Peace, joy, love in the Holy Ghost is abundant living. That is God's standard. The measure of spirituality is the measure of God's tranquility in your life. The peace, joy, and righteousness in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17) is the real measure of a Christian. God is making us into His image. The goal of the Christian walk is that we develop God's character and style.

The world always says to have your own style, be independent, be a free thinker, and do your own thing, but *"Be not conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you might know what is the good and pleasing and acceptable will of God."* (Romans 12:2) This happens through the Word of God.

Paul was in prison, not because of wrong doing, violating the law, or leading a rebellion. He was there because he preached Jesus. They found no fault with Jesus when He walked the earth. Nobody could bring an accusation that had any credence, that had any believability to it because He did not do anything. They fabricated lies about Him, but He gave them no cause because He always did what His Father said, and He honored the authorities of the land. He never had disrespect in His heart towards anybody. He had nothing but love and God's truth.

### Remember the Good

*"I thank my God every time I remember you."* (Philippians 1:3) Do you have anybody on the face of the earth that you thank God in every remembrance of them?

One time the Lord told me, "Son, when you remember that person only remember the good." You may even be thinking negatively about yourself. Did you beat yourself up while thinking about yourself? Much of that came from other people saying, "You will never amount to anything." Or they will puff you up. Those are the worse ones. I would rather have somebody talking me down than talking me up. *"A flattering mouth works ruin."* (Proverbs 26:28) Many times they just want something from you. The devil flatters you and puffs you up. Be careful. The Lord never puffs up the flesh. There are many people who try to make a good image. Have you ever tried to straighten out your reputation? In Christ you have no reputation, so what are you trying to straighten up? The new you did not do all those crazy things.

This is hard for many people to realize and to receive because their minds are still running old tapes. When you think about a certain person, you do not usually think about the good. I have done seminars over the years where I have asked people to give 10 things that are good about someone and then make a list of 10 things that are negative. The people go right to the negative list and fill it out in moments. Then they get down to three or four on the other side and it is "stump the stars." The old mind is not thinking about the good. It is thinking about the negative. It lists what a person has not done what I wanted done and is the way I thought they should be. What is

prominent in their minds? What are they thinking about? They are not thinking about anyone but themselves.

As long as people do not cross them, they love them, but “Man, you cross me one time, and I am going to mess up your life.”

*“I thank God in every remembrance of you.”* (Philippians 1:3 AMP)  
The Lord thanks Himself in every remembrance of you because He has begun a good work in you, and He is faithful to perfect and complete it. He knows that you are His good workmanship and He is proud of what He is doing in you and through you. He has so much more that He wants to accomplish. It is hard for the mind to comprehend because the mind thinks it has to do something if it is going to change. We cannot change ourselves, but God is working in us enabling us to will and do His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12-13)

What you are doing is cooperating with Him. For example, God says not to lie, so what do you do? You do not lie. The old you that did not love what God says will continue to lie. If you want to be stubborn and rebellious, doing the opposite of what you were told out of spite, the Lord says, “Okay. If you want to have a hell of a life, when I say you can have a heaven of a life, it is your call. If you want to have a hell of a marriage, it is your call.

The Lord showed me to remember the good times. Remember the good qualities. Working with people in regard to marriage and relationship, I ask “What was the quality that drew you to that other person?” You need to remember that quality 30 years from now because it will be a root that always draws you back to balance in the hell-and-high water of life. It will always draw you back to the good you saw in the person that God put in your heart.

I look at my wife, Diana, and she has a gentle heart – a prophetic hard shell, but a gentle, caring heart. I always go back to that and it draws my heart. There is something in every person that God has put there, and you go to that and it will hold your heart and your mind in the right spot.

### Rejoicing in the Lord

The joy of the Lord is a spiritual force, and it is an attitude. You always have to maintain it. Faithfulness is God's heart. He loves us with an everlasting love always. The mind of Christ that you have knows that God loves you always. He will not ever leave you or forsake you. It is why He says not to be covetous. Do not go after what you do not have. Appreciate what you do have. If you appreciate what you have, it has value. What we consider waste is what we consider valueless to us. Then again, somebody said "One man's junk is another man's treasure."

If you do not value what God is doing in you, then you are thinking waste. It is unprofitable thinking. It is not advancing the work of God in your life. If you do not have peace, you cannot give peace. Philippians, chapter four, says not to worry. Worry is unprofitable. (Matthew 6) It is not the mind of Christ. Jesus said, "*Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?*" (Matthew 6:27 NKJV) Can it cause any growth in you?

When worry and fear try to grip your life at times, say, "That is unprofitable thinking in Jesus' name. I cast it down. It is not the mind of Christ." When you do not worry and you give everything to God in prayer with thanksgiving... Thanksgiving is the mind of Christ. When you are thankful for God, for friends, for what God has blessed you with, thankful that you do not have to run around wondering who you are and what is your purpose for life and living... God has given you who you are. You are a child of God with a purpose. You are advancing the kingdom of God. You are telling people that God loves them, and you do that with excellence in word and in deed, and you have the heart that goes with it. You are not just going through the motions.

The mind of Christ lines up with the spirit of Christ in us that says whatever you do, do it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. To do it with all my heart you have to have your mind in it too. You have to will it. "*This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice in it.*" (Psalm 118:24) It just starts with somebody being glad and the next thing you know it becomes contagious.

I cannot go by what the rest of the world is going to do, I have to do what I have to do in Jesus, and God says to rejoice always. I ask,

“Why are you sad?” And they go into some reason. There is no reason for it. The mind of Christ has no reason to be sad because there is always hope with God.

### The Lord Is Your Peace

*“And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding...”* (Philippians 4:7 NKJV) [Meaning your mind cannot figure it out.] The circumstance does not dictate peace. It may be that all hell is breaking loose around. *“A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.”* (Psalm 91:7) [Which means I am not letting it inside me.] It cannot get in your spirit, if it can get into your head then it can control your body, your tongue, and it can start with you cursing yourself. You can curse yourself by what comes out of your mouth. *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”* (Proverbs 18:21 NKJV) You have to catch that and say, “No, in the name of Jesus.” *“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:7 NKJV)

God gives peace, because He is the peace. The fruit of the spirit, Galatians five, is love, joy, peace... Joy and peace are twins, and God will keep us in that. If you want to keep the peace, then think on the things that are true, just, beautiful, things of virtue, things worthy of praise. Talk about God. Keep your thoughts stayed (Isaiah 26:3) on the Lord and He will keep you in perfect peace. He will give you perfect peace and He will keep you in it. The shalom peace of God means nothing broken, everything working, the way God intends.

No matter what situation or circumstance you are in, you can have peace because the Lord is your confidence and He is your peace. *“My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you,”* Jesus said. (John 14:27 NKJV) It cannot give it because it does not have it. If you are going to the world to have peace, it is a lesson in futility. Have you ever thought that if you married a certain person, you would live happily ever after?

While Paul was in jail for Christ, it was not a happy place. These were the dark, dank dungeons. There was no activities – no letting you out in the yard to work on weights and do other things. The food

was not good and it was not a good place; chained and shackled to the wall. There Paul was writing all of these incredible mind of Christ things for our benefit. He was not even thinking about himself. He was doing it for us.

### In True Humility

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 2:3) This is the mind of Christ. Who being in very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. He humbled himself under his Father. He operated like we are to operate in this earth. Completely dependent and relying upon his Father in heaven. He is our example. He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21 NKJV).

When the family is being emotionally blackmailed by somebody in the family, there is no true relationship. It is time to stomp out tantrums in the house. Those are not the mind of Christ, and if we allow them to dictate, it sets a climate where everybody is walking on eggshells in the house. That should not be. Do not let the devil bully you in your thoughts or allow bullying to go on around you. Anytime you are thinking other than what the Father thinks about you, you are being bullied in your thoughts. Kick that thing out of your house. You do not have to put up with it.

I was working with a man (a divine appointment), and I spoke about what God would say to him. He just stopped and said, “Nobody ever talks to me like that!” I was speaking appreciation and thankfulness; it was, “Look at what God did through you!” People were always talking like he was trash. It stopped him, so I said, “That is how you have to start to see yourself. That is the way God sees you. You need to start seeing yourself that way and stop listening to the other words.” He received it and started believing it.

When somebody really laid into you, perhaps you could not get it out of your head. That is brainwashing. Someone said Christianity is the opiate of the people, but the man was brainwashed into believing that something good is something evil, and something evil is something good.

Who do people think they are that they can talk trash to God's people? Every word spoken against God's people is going back on those that have spoken it. *"This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord."* (Isaiah 54:17) "No weapon formed against God's people will prosper." Do not accept trash. It does not mean that you do not receive corrective criticism, however. A fool does not like correction and instruction. Speak the truth in love so people can grow up thereby. We need to know what the Lord says. *"For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."* (Hebrews 4:12)

*"Therefore God exalted him [Jesus] to the highest place, and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* (Philippians 2:9-11) He was exalted because he humbled himself and became obedient to God. That is when the exaltation came.

Have you tried to promote yourself? That is not the attitude of the mind of Christ. God will promote you when you are faithful to Him, and to yourself (God working in you). Note the distinction. You are not faithful to your old self, but faithful to the new self that God has made. *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away."* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17) We have to start to see ourselves the way God sees us, and to build up the God-image in us, not the self-image. This is the mind of Christ.

### Keys to Life

*"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life..."* (Philippians 2:14-16)

It is a crooked and depraved generation out there, and we used to be a part of it, but we're not anymore in Christ Jesus. We do everything without arguing and complaining. People argue and complain because they are not getting their way.

You know there will be a fight around some people you encounter. *"Only by pride comes contention [or fighting]."* (Proverbs 13:10) You can always tell when there is pride.

Many people do not even know how to live life if they are not arguing and complaining about something. The old you is so engrained in you that it takes a miracle to get it out. God is changing you into the image of Christ Jesus.

The keys to joy and life are in Philippians, chapter one. *"For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* (Philippians 1:21) *"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."* (Philippians 1:3 NKJV) *"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."* (Philippians 1:6 NKJV) You live with people knowing that they are works of God, God loves them, and He is doing a work in them.

Even though the people in the city of Nineveh were the enemies of the Israelites, Jonah was called to minister God's love to them. He had to go out of his way, and he stood to be criticized and judged by the entire nation of Israel for loving the enemy that Israel hated. That is the love of God. You will be misunderstood, criticized, judged by the world, and you have to be big enough in your heart and mind in Christ to be able to take the heat and the pressure for doing the right thing.

Having the mind of Christ will enable you, with the Spirit of Christ in you, to stand against everything. That is what Paul was dealing with. He was able to write such letters to us because it was the truth that he was living. He was willing to accept the persecution for following Christ for the sake of knowing that the crown of life was his and that he encouraged the Body of Christ through his chains. The gospel was being advanced even though he was in chains for the purpose of God. The kingdom of God was still advancing and people were

emboldened in the faith. He could be like that sitting in prison for Christ and not lose his peace, joy, and love for God and people. How much more could they get on with the work of God and not be in that kind of persecution? When the persecution would come, they knew they could stand and overcome.

If you do not accept persecution, you cannot be a Christian. Those who would be godly will undergo persecution because you are not of this world. If you do not think the way this world does, you are not of the world. If you are trying to sit on the fence or trying to have one foot in heaven and one foot in the world, you are not going to make it. You are lukewarm and compromised. The mind of Christ is not compromised with anybody about anything. It is either God's way or nothing. It is either profitable or waste, and whatever is not profitable is waste. God determines what is profitable.

Paul came from a wealthy family. He was well educated and had the finest teachers of the day. He had everything that the world had to offer. He was of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee of Pharisees, the highest of the religious order of his day. He said he put away everything that he once counted as gain (all the things of the world). He counted it all loss (waste) for the sake of knowing Christ Jesus and the power of His resurrection. He wanted to be counted worthy to suffer with Christ.

These are keys to the mind of Christ. Put aside everything else. What matters is what God has. That is what is profitable. Everything else is fluff. You will see in these times that all the fluff in the world is being removed. What is really important is what will be standing. That will be you and me with God in Christ. We are to spread a message of faith, love, hope, and encouragement, and as much as lies within us, we will live peaceably with others because we have peace in our heart in Jesus' name.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
Know No Disobedience  
Chapter Six

With All Your Heart

There are times in life when the Lord gives people a break. I come from a strong work ethic. It would do well if folks nowadays would have the same strong work ethic that I was raised in. But many have learned laziness, self-indulgence, expecting everything to be given to them, and they do not go out and work for it. The Bible says if you do not work, you do not eat (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:10).

At one season in my life work closed down for me. The Lord supplied what I needed and told me to take a vacation, go home and visit my family. At that time (during my college days), a vacation was foreign to me because I worked, went to school, played ball, and was running all the campus activities.

Because of politics in the workplace, they phased out my hours. (I thought I had gotten rid of that when I became a pastor, but then there were politics in the church.)

I had a freedom because I was not working and everything was taken care of. So I wanted to be able to enjoy this break as much as I enjoyed working. Another mindset of the mind of Christ is whatever you do, do it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God.

Enjoy your life. *“They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.”* (Ecclesiastes 5:20) This means not worrying, fearing, or caring about yourself in a negative way.

I was learning from the Lord to occupy my time with gladness of heart and be happy. The “dust of life,” can settle on you. The cares of the world are the world’s cares, they are not yours. Paul talks about the fears without, the fears within, the care of the church, the ministry.

That is the care of God, but you cannot take on the care. I learned that years ago.

### Love with God's Love

Love is a spiritual force. I do not get into feelings, but love is also an emotional force. The world does not know what love is. It needs Jesus. We need to love people with the love of God in Jesus' name. That is why we are here on this earth. It is who God made us to be. Once you understand that and get it inside of you, then your whole life will be a wonderful blessing.

The thief does not want anything of God. Do not have a negative mentality that says, *Oh, I am being persecuted and things are coming against me!* What you should do is get an overcomer mentality where it does not matter what comes. God is going to overcome it. Whatever is not of God has to fall by the side. Just be aware that you need to cover things with prayer and blessing and continue to cover them even when you get through everything. God has the whole world in His hands. We need to deal with the thieves out there that are always waging war.

Continue to thank and praise the Lord that everything is moving along right on schedule in Jesus' name according to His perfect time and His perfect way. Do not even have a thought that it is not happening.

Paul said, *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 3:13-14) It is like the runner at the end of the race who throws out his chest and his arms go back. Everything in him lunges to the finish line to break the tape.

Everywhere you go you will find there are people who need a touch of love from the Lord. Bring encouragement and good news to them. *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."* (Proverbs 17:22 KJV) Together God puts people in community so that we can get more done. The church is a together operation, Jesus being the head and we are parts of the Body. Every part has a part. We need to be doing our part.

### Do not Stop Believing God

People sin when they are disobedient and are not believing God. When Sarah told Abraham, “Has not God promised that we were going to have a son?” she tried to figure out how to make that happen. As time went by, and they did not see anything happening (it had been 30 years), she thought they could help God. Now, a thought may go through your mind but it not be your thought. Sarah had a devilish thought going through her mind. She introduced that thought to Abraham, and he received it.

The mind of Christ is not desperate. Whatever the Father says He is going to bring to pass, as long as it takes, I am not in any hurry to receive. I am not going to rush into things. All that the Father has for me will come to me. The danger is when I think I have to make it happen myself and push it through.

God blessed Ishmael and Isaac and made them great nations, but they have been warring ever since. Proverbs 3:5,6 – *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”* The mind of Christ does not lean to the understanding of the old flesh. The mind of Christ trusts, believes, and acknowledges God in all ways and lets the Lord direct the path. Through faith and patience we inherit all the promises of God.

Patience, like all the fruit of the Spirit, is a spiritual force; love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, meekness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22) Have you thought you needed more patience? You already have all the patience you need in Christ Jesus. You just need to exercise it so your mind needs to know that you trust God. Your spirit says, “Trust God” and your mind hesitates and then says, “Okay.” The mind of Christ instantly says, “Trust God,” the spirit says, “Trust God,” and the body says, “aye, aye” – all in sync.

### You Are Set Free

We are not divided. The divided person (double minded) is unstable in all his ways and cannot expect to receive anything from God. (James, chapter 1) Get rid of giving the mind its own free will. When you freely of your own free will received the gift of God in Jesus, and you said to the Lord, “Thank you for loving me, thank you for dying for

me on that cross. I now give my life to you freely,” I gave up my right to a free will. We are called bondservants in the Bible, which is the servant that was bound by Satan. You were a slave and a servant to the devil, but God in His love came and gave Himself for you, the ransom that paid the price to buy you back from the devil. Now you belong to God, a servant to Him. The Lord comes to you and says, “You are free. I set you free, you are no longer a slave and no longer a servant.”

Many people do not understand that in Christ the gospel means that you are free to do anything that you want to do. You are completely freed by God to go and serve whatever you are going to serve. But the bondservant says to the master, “I know you love me, I know you have given yourself for me. I know you have paid the penalty to save me and to break me out of the chains of the devil.” The chains of the devil are eternal damnation, poverty, sickness, disease and every separation from God which is cursed. The Lord has broken the curse off your life and set you free.

The master says, “You are free to go now,” and the bondservant looks at Him and says, “No, Master, I love you because you first loved me, and I now exercise my freedom and my free will to choose to follow you, to serve you.” And the master says, “Okay, then I will make you a son, and I will give you all the rights to my family. You will live with me in my house forever.” He is saying that you are born of His nature. You are His family (as He is so are you) because of Him, and all that He has is yours. Therefore, the mind of Christ (the intellect, emotions, and free will) always chooses to do the Father’s bidding. We read the Word of God and we say, “Okay, this is what my Father tells me to do and that is what I want to do freely.”

### Step Forward in His Plan

A Christian does not have an option to be unforgiving. You freely gave up a right to your own willful choice. We are not mere puppets on a string. We are higher than that. We came into God’s order when we chose to be part of His family. He first loved us and chose us. We did not choose Him first. He is the one who set us free and took our shackles off. He released us from the prison and set us free. Now out of thanksgiving (to whom much has been forgiven the same loves much), that is how I am now. I am not rebellious and

independent. That nature is of the devil. I love to do the will of my Father in heaven. I read something and God says to do that, I say, "Okay." The spirit says, "Yes," the mind says, "Yes," the body says, "Aye aye. I am here. I receive my orders and my instructions." I will carry it out in the power of my spirit, in the power of God. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is working in me – in my spirit, my mind, and my body. I lay hands on the sick and they will recover. I rely upon the Father who has a good plan for my life. And I step forward into that plan. I advance. That is the mind of Christ.

Do not worry about a thing. Give everything to God in prayer. Prayer is talking with God. I talk with God just like I talk to people. God will talk with you. It will come like thoughts. You will get to know when it is God speaking and not your own thoughts. You will get to know the voice of the Father. Test it out.

Jesus is our example so we need to start to do the things Jesus did when He walked the earth. *"To them who believe, the works I do you will do and even greater works that I do, you will do."* (John 14:12) People are going to get saved, delivered, and filled with the Holy Ghost.

At Pentecost they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. In the time before the cross the Holy Spirit breathed on them, but they were primed to receive the things of God.

*"The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:7) There may be no rhyme or reason to have peace. Whatever you are talking about has got to go through your mind. You have to get rid of the thinking that your mind is not perfected. Those negative thoughts are not you.

If your plan is not working out, it may not be God's plan. Most of the time people lean to their own understanding and are not listening to God's plan. You need to start acknowledging the Lord, praising Him, and thanking Him and letting go of the plan. Get rid of it. Put it on the altar. The spirit and mind of Christ test everything, and they prove whether it be the pleasing, acceptable will of God. *"Be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* (Romans 12:2) That does not mean doing a renovation on

your old mind. You have a new mind. The Word of God will produce the mind of Christ which is completely new and completely foreign to anything that you have ever thought. Your natural mind cannot even appreciate, understand, or compute the things of God. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:9)

### Line Up with the Will of God

The problem for many of God's people over the years has been that they are trying to renovate something that God says is depraved. The old mind will go right to the gutter. It will go right into negativity. But be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you might know what is the good and pleasing and acceptable will of God.

In regard to speaking in tongues, my mind needs to understand that my new mind has it, I just need to get the input. My new mind needs the new input. It needs to understand that it will not understand, comprehend, or appreciate talking in tongues. It is not my mind praying anyway; it is my spirit praying by the Holy Spirit in me. Once I understand that, then my mind is free to line up with the spirit, which is like the big screen that comes into my understanding. God talks to my spirit, but it has to get through the mind and that is where the understanding and the revelation come.

The cares of the world are the world's cares, they are not yours. You do not have to receive them. They are the world's or the devil's, and when a thought crosses your head, it may not be your thought. If it is negative, tell it to get out, and if it is not what you know is true in God, then speak forth what Jesus spoke: *"It is written. Man does not live by bread alone,"* (Matthew 4:4) when the devil was suggesting He should turn the rocks into bread. Jesus could have done that if the Father wanted Him to do that, but it was not what the Father wanted. Just because you have got all power in heaven and earth in the name of Jesus does not mean that God wants it used for different things for your own personal, party favors.

If man had absolute power apart from God, there would be no goodness. It would be total chaos. Even the good that man does apart from God always has strings attached or some catch to it. The devil offered everything to Jesus, did not he? But Jesus did not bite because those were not His Father's thoughts. He was only listening

to what His Father said. He only did what His Father said. He was not moved by people pressure or devil pressure. The devil will put pressure on you. He will put thoughts in your head.

The mind of Christ will always rejoice in the Lord. Jesus, as He walked the earth as a man, was a really fun guy. There was not any negativity coming out of Him. He probably laughed a lot. He enjoyed people. He enjoyed life. You did not feel like you were walking on eggs around Him.

The Proverbs says, "*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.*" (Proverbs 17:22 KJV) It also says, "*The Lord shall be your confidence.*" (Proverbs 3:26 NKJV) You should exude confidence. That is the mind of Christ. You know you are invincible in Him. Jesus knew that nothing and nobody could touch Him. When you are in Christ Jesus, in the spirit, nothing can touch you.

Jesus was not living in fear of people. He was not living in fear of devils. He was not in fear of sickness or disease, or not having bread on the table. He was not thinking about any of that. The mind of Christ does not go to any of those places. He knew His life was hid (as we would say, "With Christ in God."). He knew He was in the hands of His Father and that nobody could touch Him until He was ready to lay down His life. Nobody took His life. He laid down His life in the will of His Father, and He said, "I come, O Lord, to do your will."

The mind of Christ is obedient to God. It knows no disobedience. God puts people in community so that we can get more done together than we do by ourselves. The church is a together operation: Jesus the Head, and we are the parts of the Body. Every part has a part.

The mind of Christ does not worry about anything. The Father has it all under control. All we need to do is believe Him. If we believe Him, then we will do what He says.

When people sin, through disobedience, they are not believing God. All that the Father has for you will come to you. It is dangerous when you try to make things happen and push things through.

The mind of Christ does not lean to its own understanding (the old flesh). The mind of Christ trusts God. It believes God, and it acknowledges the Lord in all its ways and lets the Lord direct the path.

Through faith and patience we inherit all the promises of God. Patience, like all the fruit of the spirit, is a spiritual force. Love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, meekness, self-control (Galatians 5:20) these are all spiritual forces.

If you have thought that you need more patience, you need to realize that you already have all the patience you need in Christ Jesus. Your spirit says to trust God and your mind may not be so sure, but that is not how it works. The mind of Christ instantly says, "Trust God." The spirit says, "Trust God."

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
Attitudes that Go with It  
Chapter Seven

Do Your Part to God's Glory

The mind of Christ is not limited by time and space. Have you run your whole life based on time and space? Have you thought that you did not have some things that you wanted to have? The mind of Christ does not think or operate that way. *“Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”* (Ephesians 3:20 NKJV)

The only thing that limits us right now is the old mind, the unrenewed mind, not the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ is limitless. The only limits the mind of Christ has are the ones that the Lord sets on it.

God does not show you everything about everything. An eye just needs to see and that is what it focuses on. An ear just needs to hear. The Lord does not show us the whole plan.

In management, a manager looks at the whole picture, but usually the workers focus on their own little area. They only see the area that they are involved in. When the Lord looks at the whole picture, He sees all the parts working together. But for us, all we have to do is our part in Jesus' name to the glory of God.

That is why the Lord does not reveal everything to us. He only shows us what we need to do, no more and no less. We just need to do our function. When Peter was shown what he was supposed to do (*“Peter, do you love me?”*), (John 21:17) the Lord was doing a couple of things. One, he was getting Peter restored because he had denied the Lord three times. He gave Peter the opportunity to express his love, covering the three times with three positive affirmations. Then the Lord gave him what he was supposed to do: *“Feed my sheep, and feed my lambs [care for my people].”* The first thing Peter did after that was to look over at John, saying, *“What about him? What is he supposed to do?”*

The person with the mind of Christ does not compare or compete and is only interested in the business God has given him to do. He is not interested in what is out there. Have you ever thought that you were not significant or important? That is not the mind of Christ because just to be a part of the family of God is very significant. To be on the team is very significant, and we just need to be faithful to do the part that has been given to us.

In some symphonies the guys with the big cymbals only get to clang them at the end. They wait during the whole piece for their part, and then it is over. Whatever the Lord has given each of us to do, we need to seek him and do the part that he has given.

### Operate by the Spirit of God Together

The people with the world's mind operate by what they see. They are always measuring things by quantity rather than quality. They do not really grasp the things of the spirit. We do not run our lives by feelings. Although we can feel the Lord's presence, we know He is always with us whether we feel Him or not, or whether we see Him or not. The person with the mind of Christ operates by the Spirit of God. My spirit and my mind are together.

Yes, there are times when we feel the warmth of God's presence. Sometimes we pray over people and they feel heat. Some feel a chill. What is that? Whatever is in them is manifesting and leaving them. Sometimes they just feel something leave their body. Yes, it is true, something left their body that was not of God.

Have you ever felt that you were not loved? Have you felt that you were the only one left in Israel that had not bowed to foreign gods? Have you felt rejection? The mind of Christ does not feel any of those things. The mind of Christ does not get depressed. The mind of Christ does not receive any negativity. Do not take things personally.

In Matthew, chapter 10, Jesus gave instructions to the disciples, preparing them for what lay ahead as disciples of the Lord. He told them not to take it personally when they were persecuted because it is Jesus being persecuted.

*"It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh by faith in the Son of God." (Galatians 2:20 NKJV)*

The Philippian church was the love church. Those were the people that God held dearly. They were one of the poorest churches, but they were one of the richest as far as God was concerned because they were generous with what they had. They loved God, they honored God, they honored the Word, and they were blessed.

There were two women there. One was Euodia and the other was Syntyche. I call them Odious and Soontouchy. One of them was a provoker, causing problems and creating trouble, and the other one was always taking things personally and getting offended. They were quarrelling with each other.

Paul said that both of the ladies were women of God who loved the Lord, loved him, loved the ministry of God, and "Please, church, help them to get along together that the gospel not be hindered, that the work of God not be hindered." In other words, fulfill my joy (Philippians 2) that you be like-minded, having one heart. Be about the work of God and have no division and separation amongst you.

The mind of Christ has no separation. It has no division. It is one with God and one with the spirit and the body. The spirit, the mind, and the body are one. Health, blessing and healing flow. God communicates to the spirit and then it goes through the mind, the realm of cognizance or understanding.

The mind of Christ does not have to impress anybody. The mind of Christ is very simple yet very deep. It draws from the Spirit the innermost truths of God, the secrets of God, the things that God would reveal to do whatever it is that God has given us to do. The Lord will show you what He wants you to know. The mind of Christ does not work the way the natural mind works because it perceives spiritual truths, and understands spiritual truths which the natural mind cannot understand or appreciate. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2) The spiritual man or woman of God understands the truths that the Holy Spirit reveals. This is why we have to get the unbelieving mind out of

the way. The mind of Christ always believes, always receives the things of God, and puts them into practice.

### What You Should Be Thinking About

*“Finally, brothers, sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things.”* (Philippians 4:8)

The verse lists the things the mind of Christ is thinking about, and the Lord *is* all these things. When you are thinking about the Lord, then you are not thinking about yourself, your circumstances or situations, opposition, sickness, disease, poverty, or calamity.

The mind of Christ is not concerned about what man thinks about anything, not concerned about opinions that the person has himself, and is not concerned about anything except the Word of the Lord and the will of God.

*“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me put into practice”.* King James says, *“Do it.”* Do it and the God of peace will be with you as you do it. (Philippians 4:9)

*“He will keep them in perfect peace whose minds are fixed, or stayed upon Him.”* (Isaiah 26:3) That is the mind of Christ. Only the mind of Christ has the ability to keep its thoughts fixed upon the Lord.

*“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.”* (Proverbs 23:7 KJV) What you do is a reflection of what you are thinking. If you are thinking on what is true, just, and beautiful, things of virtue, things worthy of praise (the Lord), then you will be stable.

The mind of Christ is not double-minded. In other words, you have given everything to the Lord, *“For I know whom I have believed and I am fully persuaded and convinced that He’s able to keep that which I have committed to Him”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:12) You are seeking first the kingdom of God, an attitude of the mind of Christ. Jesus’ face was set like flint to go to Jerusalem, meaning nothing in hell was going to stop Him from going or distract Him from the purpose in the will of God.

## Clear Out Thoughts Not of God

The mind of Christ is always about the will of God. What does the Lord want? If you know that He has it all in His hands and He has it in control, then there is no fuss and mess. You do not have to play the “He loves me, he loves me not” game. They either do or they do not. A love/hate relationship theory came from secular psychology, from mixed up people with unstable emotions who did not have a will and a purpose of conviction in what they were doing. They were confused. What is in the middle of confused? Fuse. They are a bomb ready to explode. That is what confusion does.

Every evil work comes out of confusion. The mind of Christ is not confused. It knows the Lord reigns, the Lord has a purpose and a plan which He is carrying out whether you are on board or not. In spite of you, the Lord’s will will be done. *“On earth as it is in heaven.”* The mind of Christ says you are part of that. Since the Lord is in charge and He is in charge of you, you are under the Lord’s covering, and the will of the Lord will be done.

*“ ‘I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord. ‘Plans to prosper you, not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ ”* (Jeremiah 29:11) So anything contrary to that is a false imagination (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:3-5), and you cast it down in the name of the Lord.

I do not enjoy dancing with the devil. He seduces people and causes us to get our thoughts off the Lord. That is his big delight. If he can get our thoughts off the Lord, then we lose our peace and we are fair game for anything he wants to do.

I am not going there anymore. The gig is up. Jesus says, “The devil comes and I go. We do not have anything in common.” When a thought comes that is not God’s thought, it is out of my head in Jesus’ name, and I am not even going to let it go in one ear and out the other. That is giving it too much head space.

One of the hardest things for intellectual people is to receive spiritual things. What good is thinking if it is not God-thinking?

The mind of Christ does not receive what is not of God. It is foreign and it is not part of what is going on in us, so when that ugly thought starts to fly around me, I swat it. *“Take heed what you hear,”* (Mark 4:24) Jesus said.” I am going to stop it before it even gets in there.

The natural brain operates by sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch – the senses. It is a master computer which takes in things. How dangerous it can be. You have to watch what you see, what you hear, what you are tasting and touching. There are thoughts that are generating things. We need to clear those out that are not of God. The Word of God will help us to know what are the thoughts of God, what is the mind of God.

Anything that gets our thoughts off the Lord are not the mind of Christ. This is a simple little test. Anything that is focusing on yourself should be an enemy alert to you. The mind of Christ does not concentrate on you. Ecclesiastes, chapter 5 tells us that the man of God seldom reflects on the days of his life, for God occupies his time with gladness of heart. His thoughts are on the Lord, on the one who is occupying his time.

### The Love Principle

Before Diana and I got married I was at her house all the time that I was free to be over there. One time she asked me, “Why are you over here all the time?” and I said, “Because if I am here then nobody else is.” If you find a good thing, you pursue it. The Proverbs says when you find a wife, you find a good thing. This is all about love.

Our First Love should be Jesus, then comes everybody and everything else. The mind of Christ operates on the love principle and relationship with Jesus Christ. That is what everything stems out of. We love because God first loved us and demonstrated that love in giving His blood for us on the cross so that we can be saved.

Whenever something else pops up to get our attention and concern, it is an idol. It is taking your thoughts off the Lord. It is taking your love off the Lord. When you love the Lord with all your heart, then whoever is in your life is going to be super blessed because you will not be selfish. You will have the attitude that is in Christ Jesus.

We are to be a loving witness to people. Do good to them, pray blessings on them, and ask the Lord to help them to come into all that He has. Everything of God is simple. Once you know it, do it.

Have you had trouble forgiving someone? Jesus was hanging on the cross, crucified, and saying, "*Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing,*" (Luke 23:34) even though He was completely innocent.

Have you had a few interesting thoughts about people? In the middle of the word interesting is the word rest. In having bad thoughts there is no rest in it. As the expression goes, there is no rest for the wicked. No rest for the unbelieving. No rest for the selfish. No rest for the depraved and the deprived. But there is rest for those who humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, and choose to think God's way.

With the mind of Christ, it is just natural for us to forgive. Jesus gives the real key there in Matthew 10 – do not take it personally. "It is not you being offended. They do not like Me, and I am in you."

When you really understand the mind of Christ, there is perfect peace. "*Since you then be risen with Christ set your mind and your affections (your heart and your spirit) on the things above not on the things beneath.*" (Colossians 3:1, 2) Every time you lose your peace, it is because you stepped out of heaven. You are seated with Christ in the heavenly places. That is your position. The labor of love is done. All you are doing is carrying it out.

Every time one of God's people is persecuted, Jesus is being persecuted. It has to do with the cross. We died at the cross, and God came alive in us at the resurrection. There has to be a crucifixion before there can be a resurrection. We have to die to our old self and all of its thinking before we can rise to the new in the mind of Christ and be the new creation that God has made us to be. Paul said, "I daily die to my old self because it tries to come up."

The mind of Christ is not limited by time or space. The only one that limits it is you. The old thinking will limit you. The next time the pressure comes, realize that you need to approach it the way that

God approaches it. The question you should ask is, “Lord, how are we going to deal with this?” Do not just rush out there. Haste makes waste. They confronted Jesus with the woman caught in adultery and they had made sure they went by Jesus on the way to throw rocks at her. Trouble will look you up, but it will not find you if you do not enter into it.

The mind of Christ does not repay evil for evil. The mind of Christ does not resist evil. It overcomes it with good. The mind of Christ only approaches things with goodness, love, and mercy. It does not approach vengeance for vengeance or an eye for an eye. The mind of Christ says I am going to love you and see you saved.

When they came to Jesus with the woman, He did not even answer them. He did not look up at them. He just drew on the ground. Then He said, *“Let he who is without sin cast the first stone.”* (John 8:7) He did not rush right in and respond to the situation. He took a moment. A Holy Spirit moment.

The mind of Christ does not presume to know anything unless the Father shows it. One time I was teaching counselors, including a certified trained counselor. I was working with a young lady there, showing spiritual counseling. Her nails were chewed down to the nubs. I asked the person, what do you think is going on with her? And the counselor gave me the classic textbook answer: “Nerves.” I laughed and said, “Okay, let’s ask her. Why are your nails like that?” “Because I like chewing them,” she says. People do what they like to do. I asked a guy with cigarettes, “Why do you smoke; it is harmful to your health. It says so right on the package. It says it will kill you.” And he answered, “Because I like to.” I asked, “Why do you drink beer?” “I like to.” There is nothing for life and health in the beer. Proverbs says beer drinking will make you a brawler. Wine is a mocker, it will catch you on the back side.

There are some things that you do not like to do, but you have to do them, like cleaning toilets.

The mind of Christ does not judge people. Jesus told the woman, *“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”* (John 8:11) The mind of Christ seeks to reconcile people. It believes all things, bears

all things, hopes all things, endures all things, and it never fails. The mind of Christ is love. Our spirit is love, our mind is love, and our body is used to the glory of God for love purposes too: hands to serve God, eyes to see what needs to be out there to allow God to work and to do what God wants to do, ears to hear His word, feet to walk His way. Everything about us was created by God for His purpose and his glory to do His good in the earth by loving people.

Some attitudes with the mind of Christ are to will and do the purposes of the Father. We know the Father and who we are in Christ. We have an identity, we are children of God about His purpose. We have relationship with the Father. We walk and talk together.

People may think they know you through what they have heard about you, but you do not know who they are. There are people in the last days who will say, "Father, we did this in your name and that in your name," and He will say, "Depart from me, you worker of iniquity. I do not know who you are." I am always delighted when I get to meet the people that have heard about me, and praise God for them because they are hungry for the Word of God, they are receiving the Word of God, and I am part of their family. Thank God for all the people in your life – past, present, and future. If you start to hedge on somebody, say, "That is not the mind of Christ. I love that person. I thank God in every remembrance of them."

Many are glad that God healed them or did something with their emotions. The Lord is making people wonderful all over the earth. That is a good thought.

### What We are to Do

Whatever we do, we do it with all our heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. That includes the things that we did not necessarily want to do. We do things that are good things. Some of those tasks we may have to adjust a little because we do what we want to do.

One time the Lord told me, "Son, I only do what I want to do, and I only do what I take pleasure in doing," and He continued, "Do likewise." The old flesh would say, "I love doing only what I want to do, and I only do what I take pleasure in doing," but we often have to make an adjustment because much of what we were doing was

wrong. It was wrong before God, and it was not producing His purpose and will. It was selfish, self-centered, manipulative and controlling, trying to get folk to do what we want them to do.

Whatever you do, do it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. That is how God does things. He does not do things half way. He finishes everything He starts because He knows it has a good ending. *“Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will direct the path.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6) It will end up well.

Sometimes it is a process, but ...what do you see at the finish? Note, the mind of Christ is always in sync with the new spirit, but what you see at the finish is what you are going to have. *“Be it done to you according to your faith.”* (Matthew 9:29)

There was a lady with a lung condition who was in the hospital dying. They had done three lung surgeries on her and they did not expect her to make it. The Lord told me one day when I was praying for her to go and anoint her with oil in the name of the Lord, pray the prayer of faith, and ask her this question, “What do you see at the finish?” She looked at me very weakly. When you are going through a process like that, they tell you that they can do something and you will get better. They do not usually say you will get better. They cannot do that. They cannot give you much hope. It is just “Understand the process.” They do what they said but you do not get better. Your hopes were up and then they went down. Slam. Then they say, “We will try this, we can do this, this may work,” and your hopes go back up again. Then they do it, and it does not work, and you go down again. It is no fault to man – they are doing the best they can do. If you do not believe doctors are there to help you, then what are you going to them for? Just a thought.

After three times, there was nothing else that they could do for the lady. I believe that place is the finest place you can be because then you will put all your eggs in God’s basket. Understand this, yes, God works through folks that way and it will be done the way you are believing. God has a plan and a purpose. He will intervene in the way you are believing and adjusting.

I asked her, "What do you see at the end of this?" The unrenewed mind said she was going to die, and it would be shortly. The mind of Christ sees something else. She had the mind of Christ, and what did she see? She said, "I see myself healthy and breathing perfectly like I used to." "Now," I said, "Hold that thought." That is where we're going with this. She walked out of the hospital about five days later, breathing perfectly for another 12 years until she went in her sleep to be with the Lord from something else.

What do you see at the outcome? Whatever you do, do it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. God has something good at the end of whatever you are going through. I encourage people not to go by circumstances, situations, or feelings. What do you want to see at the end?

I have asked others that saw things that were not good at the end, but even if I die, I live. Our prayer always for people is not that they get healthy or wealthy, but that they finish everything that God has given them to do. The Lord will supply everything that they need for whatever they need to finish what He has given. There is going to be a good end at the end.

You can say, "I fought the good fight of faith, I have finished the course, I have run the race, and I am out to the glory of God." If you approach a marriage with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God, there is not going to be a lot of bickering. Bickering is a sign of discontent. It is a sign that somebody is not with the program. It is a sign that somebody is not believing.

We are supposed to be in the world but not of it. When you are in something that you choose to get into, God can do something with it. He is into miracles in spite of us. That is the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. It never fails.

Have you ever had to go back to point zero and start over? Did you find that you did better the second time around? Did you kick yourself about the first time? It will wreck the second time if you do not let go of it. When the Lord looks at you, He is not counting your past against you.

### The Before and the After

The mind of Christ realizes that you are not where you were anymore, and it is so thankful for that fact. Your testimony comes out of your past, and then your present. Your before and your after. What good would the after picture be if you do not have the before?

When you look through the mind of Christ, you do not look at your past as bringing you down. You look at your past as totally rotten, selfish, self-centered, dead, and going to hell. But it is not you anymore, and all your mess-ups in relationships, finances, and health, all your worry, fear, and lack of peace is gone. You are so thankful to God for a brand new start and a new beginning. How can you do anything but forgive people when you are forgiven? *“To whom much has been forgiven the same loves much.”* (Luke 7:47)

The mind of Christ says, “Yes, that is how I used to be, that is what I used to do. I left a wake of broken relationships and people, but it is a new beginning. Lord, I pray that you would love those people and help them and get them healed. I humble myself and ask for forgiveness. Get them healed up from my part in their mess up, so be it, because I am a minister of reconciliation now. I am not a minister of disintegration and devastation. I am bringing the Lord in to help all of us.”

You did not have the Lord before, or maybe you were a Christian that chose to go the old ways and not operate in the mind of Christ in your new spirit. There is still forgiveness, and the Lord will help you to get going in the right direction.

We have to allow the peace of Christ to reign in us as Colossians, chapter three says. We have to permit that to happen.

### In Process

Other attitudes are to set your mind on the things above and not on beneath. Always look at things through the mind of Christ like God sees it. Ask yourself, *how does God see this? How does He look at this whole thing?* Step back. If you could step out of yourself and look at yourself objectively, you would be able to help yourself. That is working out your salvation. When you are not in the mind of Christ,

then you are not seeing clearly. You are always rationalizing and justifying, and everybody else is the problem. You blame them. If they would do what they are supposed to do, you would not be upset. But who are you to judge somebody else?

I told my wife, Diana, recently, "I am going to quit saying that things are happening that have not happened yet because sometimes people and circumstances hold up the process, and I am not a liar." But if I say something is happening when it is being delayed, then after a while people say, "Well, maybe it is, maybe it is not. Whatever." Then I become a liar. However, you have to go by what other people are telling you.

The mind of Christ realizes that many things that God is doing are in process. We are one of those things. We are perfect, yet we are being perfected. In Christ we are perfected, and we are being perfected. That is where tolerance, kindness, goodness, and patience come in. In Romans, chapter four, it talks about God's loving kindness leads people to change, to repent.

The mind of Christ is made up of God's goodness, His tolerance, and His patience. Some things do not happen overnight. Other things God wants to happen now. For example, a lady came here from San Francisco and one of her legs was five inches shorter than the other. She came in with a step heel on her one shoe with five inches difference on it. In a minute and a half the Lord grew the leg out 4-1/2 inches. Then I felt a pain in my chest like somebody stabbed me. I looked at the lady and I asked, "Ma'am, why did you stop your faith?" And she said, "Pastor, you know, some things take a while to happen." I said, "Well, it has grown 4-1/2 inches in a minute and a half, do you think we could just give it another 30 seconds?"

When people have needs badly enough, they will come from long distances to a place to receive when they know that something in the house is going to help them.

The lady walked out of there carrying her shoe with a one inch difference in her legs. She lost her faith. All she needed to do was give in another 30 seconds. This was something that God wanted to do right then. There are other things that happen over time,

especially relationships, because people do not get into the mess they are in so quickly – it happens over time. Trust is something that has to be developed, but we have to be willing to stay in there long enough to allow something to happen.

Tolerance and patience come when we are allowing a miracle to happen. The mind of Christ recognizes what is going on and understands. It will put the best construction, God's construction.

The mind of Christ is always seeking first the kingdom of God. In Philippians chapter 1, Paul said that his being in prison was not holding back the advance of the gospel but it was even furthering the advance of the gospel because others had been encouraged and were picking up where he left off. They were out sharing the good news of the love of God. There were no setbacks.

The mind of Christ sees no setbacks. Only advance of the kingdom of God because anything that appears to be a setback is not a setback, it is just something that is being perfected and adjusted. Have you found that when God is doing something, He is not doing just one thing?" He is causing many things to come out of it. Sometimes along the way in the process, the Lord does what we call setbacks. But they are not setbacks, they are just that God is perfecting an attitude, He is perfecting situations, He is adjusting. He may be involving other people that would not normally be involved. Joseph said to His brothers, "*What you intended for evil, God intended for good.*" (Genesis 50:20) God saved the whole world of the day through Joseph, the man of God who did not see setbacks as setbacks but saw them as an advancement, moving things into place so that God could do what He wanted to really do.

The mind of Christ does not see setbacks as setbacks. The Lord has everything under control, so it is all moving right along to the purpose and will of God.

**Sure**, based on God's principles:

**Slow**, meaning we're not getting out ahead of God. We are not leaning to our own understanding, we're just taking our time.

**Steady**, staying with it. Not giving up. A lot of visions have not happened because people gave it up. The mind of Christ does not give up the vision of God. It does give up the vision of man – whatever is futile, whatever is not productive to the purpose, plan, and will of God. The mind of Christ will see it for what it is and give it up. But the will of God, the mind of Christ will stay with it and see it all accomplished.

**Steady steps**, meaning the mind of Christ is going to do it now. Do what the Lord directs you to do, not on your own. The natural mind does that. The mind of Christ only obeys what the Father is giving.

### Take Your Stand

Remember, Jesus did not do or say anything that His Father did not give Him to do or to say. We need to listen to and seek the Lord as to what He wants, not what we want.

God has already been in our future. He prepared it and He is now coming with us, bringing us into the good future and hope that He has planned and purposed. That is what the mind of Christ sees. That all equals success. The world has no clue about what God sees as success. They are into time, space, volume, and all the things that mean nothing to God. With God there is no time, no space, no distance. Jesus could speak something here and it would be done over there because there was no time and space as far as the spirit realm is concerned, with God. This is beyond the natural mind. Only the spiritual mind can understand the things of the Spirit.

God spoke, “Let there be light,” and there was light. That does not compute with the natural mind. *“Lay hands on the sick and they will recover.”* (Mark 16:18) That does not compute with the natural mind. The mind of Christ says, “Do it.” Do it because God says to do it. When you find out what God says to do, you do it. Forgive. Do it. There is no hesitation, there is no waiting.

Note, Jesus did not say to a certain guy, “Take up your bed and walk when you feel like it.” He said, “Take up your bed and walk”. Do it. When he did, then the strength and power came into him which he did not have before. That is where we have to step out.

Nobody is going to love you unless you step out and love them. People come up for prayer all the time to be able to love somebody, and I tell them to just go home and love them. They think they need to work themselves up to that. Why? If you have the Spirit of God, the mind of Christ, a new spirit, a body, are alive, have breath, you can do it. You just need to do it. Go and do it in Jesus' name.

This is who we are. This is the real us. The other nonsense is not the real us.

Tolerance does not compromise the truth of God. It does not excuse things that are not of God. It just realizes, *I take my stand in God; this is wrong* (and it is wrong). If you do not stand against it, you are with it, and saying nothing says you are in agreement.

Sometimes when folks' lives fall apart, it is a good thing. Maybe they will come to their senses that their way is not working, and they need to turn to the Lord and do what God wants. I can guarantee you, their world will come to an end because God resists the proud but gives grace and ability to the humble. He wants the people saved, He does not want them lost, and if they continue their way they are going to be lost.

Tolerance says *Okay, I am not going to nag you, and once I make it clear to you where we stand and what is going on, that I am here and available, if you want to go with God, we will go to church, we will pray, we will do whatever is needed, but it is going to be on God's terms, God's way, not yours anymore. That is it.* Why? You cannot serve two masters. One or the other.

The mind of Christ is inflexible on compromise. It is not going to compromise the truth for anybody or anything. If we are going to see God's best it has to be on the Lord's terms.

We have to take our stand in God. The fear is usually there that you are going to lose the person, but you have already lost them. All you are doing is telling them that they are okay by not telling them that they are wrong. Even in relationships, you have to step out of yourself, put your whining and your feelings out of the way because

there is something that is right for everybody – it is God’s way, and we’re going to have to come to grips with that.

We will get the truth and that is what we need because otherwise folks are believing a lie. If you believe a lie, it will never get you anywhere that is good. It will always lead to problems. You can put a Band-Aid over a cancer all you want; it is not going to take care of the cancer. It has to be cut out. Isolated and cut out.

If you have been nasty with somebody lately, that is not operating in the mind of Christ. Ask the Lord to forgive you and go to that person and say, “I have been nasty. I know you know I have been nasty. Thank you for bearing with me while I am getting un-nasty.” That is tolerance. “To hell with you, I will never see you again as long as I live” is not tolerance. Say, “To heaven with you, and I will see you again when you get un-nasty.” In other words, “I will see you again when you repent and turn your life over to God and start going God’s way. Then we will all be together.”

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
More Attitudes of the Mind of Christ  
Chapter Eight

For a Blessed Business

The Lord neither slumbers or sleeps. He is awake, thinking up good things to do for us. The heavenly Father loves to do good for His children.

Recently I heard a testimony from a young woman who had prayed for her employer's business. God sparked something in me that is so important. Nowadays you hear so much doom and gloom, but faith in God makes the difference. The Lord can sustain people even though they do not have much going on.

This young woman prayed that her employers, who owned a small hamburger stand, would have business. The next thing you know the place was packed out. She had told her employers that she was praying for the business, and they knew that God did something. What sparked in my heart was that God, El Shaddai, the Almighty One, is more than enough. He can certainly honor the faith of one of His children and do whatever is needed to be done. This is a witness.

When you pray, and you see situations where people are talking negatively, just tell them, "If we would believe God together, we could see the Lord do something. As we are about God's business, we are not going out of business." I have had the opportunity to pray with all kinds of people and their businesses who would never have asked us for prayer. They are asking for prayer because they know they do not have enough customers, and what they have is coming down.

There are some things you really have to do if you want God to bless your business: 1) Personally seek first the kingdom of God with all your heart. That means put the Lord as your first priority. 2) You need to honor the Lord's Sabbath, and you need to honor Him. You need to be in church. You need to be about God's business, praising and thanking Him. That needs to be a priority. That means your

business does not run your life. The Lord runs your life if you want your life to be blessed. 3) The Lord needs to be the Lord of the business. Give the business to Him. Give the children to Him. Give your spouse to Him. Give your friends to Him. Give your life, the car, the dog and whatever there is to the Lord.

When we release everybody and everything to the Lord, we have no care, no fuss, and no mess. We will have the shalom peace of God. We are not going to worry about the business. We are not going to worry about our lives – what we will eat, drink, or wear. When people ask, “Why are not you worried?”, you can say that you gave everybody and everything to the Lord, and you are living for Him.

I know a lady that shut down her salon on Saturdays when she learned about the Sabbath of the Lord. It was her busiest day of the week. When she did that, God made Monday the busiest day of the week. The Lord will do that, but it takes a lot of faith (about the size of a grain of mustard seed). In Isaiah 58 the Lord says if you honor Him on His holy day that He will cause you to ride on the high places of the earth. *“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.”* (Isaiah 58:13-14) Supernatural miracles divine appointments, and blessings come from the north, south, east, and west when nobody else has anything happening.

God blessed Isaac 100-fold in the time of famine. Nobody else had anything going on. Because Isaac got rid of the fear for His life, the Lord blessed Him. That is what keeps people back from believing God. If the Lord says something, He is going to do it. We do not know how He is going to do it, but He is going to make a way where there is no way, but we have to get in with His plan and His agenda. That means you have to leave yours by the way and get with His. He will show you, He is not hiding things.

### Honor the Lord First

In James, chapter one, it says, *“If any lack wisdom let him ask God and He will give it to us.”* (James 1:5) You will never know until you do it. Do not try it; there is no going back on it. In other words, you stay with it until you see the breakthrough. When you are honoring the Lord first, the Lord says He will cause His blessing to come to you.

*“Has He not said it, will He not do it, has He not promised, and will He not fulfill?”* (Numbers 23:19)

My granddaughter came up to me to tell me that she had two Bibles. I told her that was good. Bibles need to be very important in a little one's life. When you get the children started on the Word, they will get hooked on it. It is better than drugs, alcohol, or anything else. Once you get God's Word in your heart, you will not want to go back to other things because you start living a supernatural life.

People who honor God will not lack for anything during these times. The only reason people who are God's people will lack is 1) lack of knowledge, 2) They do not want to do anything with the knowledge they have. That is, they are not believing, or 3) they have willful, known sin in their lives – something they know God does not want them doing but they are doing it. If you are, you need to ask the Lord to forgive you right now, and be specific, say what it is that you are doing. God knows what you are doing, but you need to release what you are doing in Jesus' name and then tell the devil to get out of your life about that. The devil cannot make you do anything you do not want to do.

Live a clean life before the Lord. Do not let yourself be led by the old self and the world. The old self always wants to do what you want to do rather than what God wants done. If you do not like to be told what to do, you have an authority problem, or if you like to tell other people what to do... If you think your opinion is important, you are a person that wants to tell somebody what to do. Have you judged and criticized? What if the Lord started doing that? It is easy to be a fruit inspector, but God did not call us to that. He called us to produce fruit to His glory.

*“Judge not lest you be judged.”* (Matthew 7:1) Get the log out of your own eye so you can see clearly to get the speck out of somebody else’s. It is easy to be a Tuesday morning quarterback, but it is another thing to be the quarterback and have these huge dudes running at you. You have split seconds to make decisions about what to do and where to go with it.

### Transformed or Ensnared?

Have you found that when you are helping somebody else to get their life together, you actually applied what you said to yourself? Many times as we are helping somebody else, God talks to us and tells us, “You need to make some adjustments.” We are being perfected.

There are many people who dwell on their shortcomings. They dwell on their weaknesses, or other people’s weaknesses and it makes them feel a little better. When people talk bad about you because of Jesus, because you are about God’s business, you can actually thank them because great blessing is coming to you. Persecution has great blessing for the one who is being persecuted. The Word says you will be rewarded.

The Word of God will transform us. The attitudes of the mind of Christ will change our thinking. God is changing us into His image (Romans 8:29)... *“As a man thinketh in his heart so he is.”* (Proverbs 23:7 KJV) We need to contrast the old with the new and step up and look at what we are thinking about. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. So whatever you are thinking is what will eventually come out of your mouth.

If you have ever held hatred or bitterness towards somebody, the next thing you know it comes out of your mouth. It does not just go toward the person to whom you are holding bitterness, it is going to everybody else around you. You do not need any great spiritual discernment to find out where a person is. Just listen to him talk for a few moments. It only takes a couple of minutes. I can tell you right where a person is spiritually by what comes out of his mouth, after you get over the initial, “Hi, how are you, what is happening?” What he is thinking about is what he will be talking about.

We have to change. This is a daily process. We put down the old self, the self-centered self and take on the new. If we learn this when we are young, we will be blessed all our days. One of the finest things teenagers can learn is the Word of God. It will set the path for their whole life. If they start learning it when they are little, it is even better because it becomes a way of life. They do not have to challenge God's Word because they have not been outside of the Word for all that time. Those who have been outside of the Word for a long time and come into it later – they have a lot of baggage.

The old way of life will ruin things if you dwell on it and keep acting on it. Many Christians do not have the abundant life Jesus came to bring because they are still thinking the old ways. They are still thinking weakness. They are still thinking poverty. They are still thinking lack. They are still thinking they are not loved or cared about. They are still trying to look out for themselves and are in survival mode. The Lord says to put away all that. He says, *"I love you with an everlasting love."* (Jeremiah 31:3)

*"Be it done to you according to your faith."* (Matthew 9:29) When you think about that, what are you believing? What do you see at the end of the tunnel? What is down the road? Are you seeing blessing, or are you seeing all kinds of problems, issues, and trouble? What you are believing is what you will have. Life and death are in the power of the tongue. You will eat the fruit thereof, Proverbs says. Are you speaking life, or are you speaking death?

I tell people to record themselves speaking for a day, and then listening to what comes out of their mouths. At the end of the day, sit there like you are somebody else listening and take a good look at what you are actually believing. You will hear it. *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Romans 10:17 NKJV) But many do not want to take the time to do that for whatever reason. They do not think it is important, but the Lord says you will have whatsoever things you say. You are going to have what you are speaking and that is what you are believing.

*"Be not ensnared by the words of your mouth."* (Proverbs 6:2) Many people have made themselves captives by their own words, and that is why they are not moving ahead.

Instead of saying you are getting sick, you should say, “*Get off my body in Jesus’ name.*” But if you are receiving it, you are going to have it. Have you said, “Nobody likes me, or the people I want to like me do not like me?” Many times people do not care about others; they only care about the ones they want to like them.

### Acknowledge and Know the Lord

The mind of Christ seeks first the kingdom of God, trusts the Lord for everything, and leans not to own understanding. We do not want our own wisdom, we want God’s thoughts. Did you run to people before you went to the Lord? Did you try to figure it out yourself but got confused and upset? I have heard this in the Christian community: *When all else fails, pray.* That is the first thing you should be doing or everything else will fail. Just go to what works and get results. When things are happening, we need the insight of the Lord. We need to know what the Lord says about what is going on.

The mind of Christ acknowledges the Lord in all ways, knowing the Lord will direct the path. This is constant awareness of God’s presence, constant awareness that the Lord is here whether you want to respond to Him or not, whether you recognize Him or not. With the mind of Christ in every situation in life, we acknowledge our Father’s presence and look to Him for what to do and how to do it, what to say, and how to say it.

Have you been afraid to witness to people and tell them about Jesus? It is the most natural thing in the world by the Holy Spirit to do this because Matthew 10 says not to worry about what you are going to say. It will be the Holy Spirit giving you the words and speaking through you. Just ask the Lord to give you the words to say in Jesus’ name. When you acknowledge the Lord, then He will give the words.

All you have to do in your witnessing is tell people what you have seen, what you have heard, and what you know is true. Tell people about what the Lord did, and what happened. It is matter of fact. Every day people are telling you what is happening out there in the world. It is time somebody hears some good news. That is witnessing. It is what the Lord has, and it is the easiest thing in the

world. You talk about what you love the most. If you love cars, you talk about cars. If you love cooking, you talk about cooking.

The mind of Christ always reflects Jesus. It is like the moon reflecting the sun. The moon has no light in itself. As you acknowledge the Lord in all your ways, He will direct the path. You may be about one thing, and the Lord has something else – a divine appointment. Many times you are somewhere because you thought for one reason, but the Lord has another reason for it.

Joshua, chapter one, talks about the Lord already being in our future and knowing our beginning from our end. The Lord is the Alpha and the Omega, and He is guiding our steps.

Part of what is involved in having the mind of Christ is knowing certain things, for what we know affects our attitude. It has been said that attitude affects altitude. In other words how high you can fly, how high you can soar. It has been said that if you think like a turkey, you will stay on the ground. If you think like an eagle, you will soar with the eagles. Then people say, “How can I soar with the eagles if I am always hanging out with the turkeys?” Have you thought that since birds of a feather flock together, maybe that is because you are a turkey? Turkeys are not better than eagles, they are just different.

God is not into comparing and competing like the world is and like the flesh is. Why do you think you need to be better than that other person or at least keep up with him? The mind of Christ does not think like that. The mind of Christ is happy being who you are.

You need to understand that whether you are a turkey or an eagle be it with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. Do not think less or more of yourself than you should. Usually people that think less of themselves eventually come to a point where they hate it. Then they think more of themselves and become obnoxious. All they are thinking about is themselves, and to do that you have to blame somebody else. You have to put somebody else down, you have to think more highly of yourself and you cannot be happy just playing in the game. You have got to be the killer winner, the star, and you need somebody to recognize you. That is not the mind of Christ.

The root of the word “knowledge” is “know.” When you know the Lord, you want to acknowledge Him, not yourself. Ask yourself, *What would the Lord want me to do in this situation? What would Jesus do in this situation?* It is what you know that makes the difference. Many times there is not a faith problem, there is a knowledge problem. You do not have the information to make a proper decision to come to grips with the truth, and what you are believing is actually a lie, even though you think it is true.

An example of that would be if a woman is contending with her husband over the children. They both love their children, but she thinks her husband is not being fair to them. Life is not fair. The devil is not fair. Self is not fair. Without pride there is no contention, there is no fighting. Who determines what is fair? God does. If you are operating by the mind of Christ, you will let God come into the situation and determine it.

When you get into the mind of Christ, you will have revelations all day long. You will be able to see situations from God’s perspective, and you will be able to make wise decisions. You will stay out of trouble, for your thinking apart from the mind of Christ will get you into trouble. You can sit there all by yourself and still have a war going on. You can have a depression, confusion, or you start punching walls... and nobody is even around.

Diana and I learned very early in marriage that it is not her way or my way, even though we are both wonderful and smart, but we had to bow to the Lord. Not our will be done, but the Lord’s will be done. That is the only way we have lasted this long. We have a commitment to God, to self, and to each other. We yield and submit to the will of the Lord being done.

It is amazing how smart God is and how smart we become when we have the mind of Christ. We are not going to lock horns like the rams did, and eventually all that was left were their two locked horns. That is no way to live. The mind of Christ has a better plan.

We need to know the Lord and how He works, and how He operates because He is in us working His work. If you know that, then you

have the ability to change things around you for good for God to set an environment of the Holy Spirit. To pull the plug on the contention, strife, and the commotion that is in the world.

### The Love of God and the Love for God

The mind of Christ knows the love of God. It looks nowhere else for love. It knows that God loves us. We are God's beloved and He is ours. We are not needy when we go into relationships. The reason many relationships have many problems is because people are needy, and they are looking to that other person to fulfill something in them.

Have you ever felt that someone was not meeting your needs? Do you even know what your needs are? If one of those needs is to be loved, it has already been met by the Lord, so what are you looking to that person to do? The Lord says that you are an adulterer if you look to another for your love. *"If you love father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife more than Me, you are not worthy of Me,"* (Matthew 10:37) Jesus said. The mind of Christ knows the Lord is your First Love. That way you cannot ever be compromised, and people cannot emotionally blackmail you, use you, abuse you, or torment you. They cannot dangle the love out there, and then take it back. The Lord does not love you and then take it back. *"I love you with an everlasting love."* (Jeremiah 31:3) We are not needy as far as love goes. We have all we can handle. We are overflowing in God's love.

Before Diana and I were married I told her one day that she would be the second love in my life. She did not say anything, but I could see that she was bothered by it. Then the Lord prompted me quickly and I said, "That is not bad next to God." Of all the folks in my little universe, second is not bad next to God. That means commitment, responsibility, and accountability. People need to take care of their own household before they go out saving the world. Then they can go out and get all their neighbors saved and blessed.

The mind of Christ knows that, so we are not into uncertainty. Stability comes as a result because that is what everybody is ultimately seeking and searching. They want to be loved, they want to be acknowledged, they want to be appreciated, they want to be

accepted, and they want to be a part of things. The Lord says, “I have given everything to you so you have everything, and now you are able to go and love others as I have loved you.”

As the Lord has loved me, I love you. The mind of Christ knows how God loves people. He is only interested in what is best for us. We do not have to have an authority problem because the Lord is the author of all authority, and we know that our loving Father in heaven knows what is best for us. He works through the authorities that He has placed on this earth.

### Authorities in Your Life

The devil hates authority. He is anti-authority. He is anti-God. The reason people are like that is they do not trust the authorities. The authorities in our lives are our parents, and in the church they are the ministers of God who are over us and who have to give an account to God. The ministers of the church give an account to God for their parishioners. (Hebrews 13) The ministers of the church have to give an account to God for what they have done and what they have said to the church members. They do not have to give an account for what the people have done with what they have heard.

If you know you are loved by the authorities and you trust them, then you will not have an issue. Have you ever had a job where you thought you knew more than the boss? The Lord says, “I am the Lord and there are no other gods before Me.” The reason the authority may have an attitude towards you is because you have an authority attitude, and what they are picking up on is your attitude. They will deal heavily with you and be stricter than they would with somebody else.

Your attitude will make the difference. Your attitude is based on what you believe and what you are thinking, and if you believe and think that you know more than that boss, then you are in danger of losing your place. You need to thank God that you have a job, and whatever you do you do with all your heart in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. It is a privilege to have a job. You are dispensable because nobody is indispensable. Our lives are a privilege because God could, quite frankly, get along very well without us. However, He loves us and He has a plan for our lives. A good plan. The Lord

works through the authorities. The four authorities are the parents, the church authorities, the government authorities and the workplace authorities.

Some people who think they are authorities are not. It would do you well to get a couple of opinions from the doctors. It would do you quite well to get different thoughts from others. Receive it as counsel, take it to God, and then let the Lord direct what you are to do and how you are going to do it.

The mind of Christ is submissive to the authority of God and the authorities of God. (Read 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2 through 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3) When the Bible talks about “knowing” someone, it means intercourse between a husband and a wife. This is intimacy, not just head knowledge. This is an intimate understanding which leads to appropriate action based upon whom you have believed, and you are fully persuaded and convinced He is able to keep that which you have committed to Him. Meaning, you know your Father.

### Pray a Blessing

One day a guy was railing on me, “Thus saith the Lord: you are this and you are that,” and I stopped him and said, “You know, I am really sorry, I appreciate your concern about me, but my Daddy in heaven does not talk to me like that,” and I walked away. Later I found out that everything that person had said about me happened to him... and it was not good. No weapon formed against God’s people will prosper. Every word spoken against them will go back on those that have spoken it. Such is the inheritance of the righteous.

Since I know that, I immediately pray for such people. They do not know what they are doing. *“Father, forgive them they do not know what they are doing,”* (Luke 23:34) Jesus said on the cross. They did not have the mind of Christ. They did not know the mind of the Father. They did not even know what they were doing. It is so dangerous to get caught up in the crowd mentality, in the world mentality, in the self-mentality because you will miss what the Lord has, and you will ruin your life.

How can you say, “I will never talk to that person again because of the things she has done to me?” Think about it. You are still alive.

Even if they kill you, you will be with the Lord if you have forgiveness in your heart toward them. *“The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man shall do to me. (Hebrews 13:6) He will not leave me or forsake me.”* (Joshua 1:5) When you know that, it does not matter what people do or say. They cannot do anything to you unless you let it get inside of your head and your heart. That is what the devil wants. He wants to get you bitter and unforgiving. But the mind of Christ says, no way! I love each person in Jesus’ name even though they are saying and doing all kinds of nonsense.

The mouth will speak from the mind of Christ that you love people. When the thought comes about them, pray a blessing on them in Jesus’ name. The mind of Christ is disciplined. We are not born of a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound, well-balanced, disciplined mind. When a negative thought comes on me, I just say, “Get away from me bitterness, get away from me hatred, and get away from me rejection, feeling unloved, or superior thoughts in Jesus’ name.” We know that God is our source. If you lose your job, so what, God is your source, not the job.

### Where Is Your Trust?

Welfare and Social Security are basically bankrupt. You hear about schemes where they take money from one and put it towards the other so people think they are getting something. The illusion is that somebody is getting paid. Well, they are getting paid from somebody else who has just come into the system. The next thing you know, it is bankrupt.

How can you print trillions of dollars and give billions of dollars over there that you do not even have? That would be like Monopoly money. Diana will not play Monopoly with me because I am a shark. I build all the hotels and houses and watch them all go around and they hit this one, they hit that one. If the Lord is not our source in this age that we’re in, we’re bankrupt. It has got to come down to this. It is the time of the greatest reckoning because all the wealth of the world is what people put their trust in.

Paul told Timothy in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6, “Tell the rich not to put their trust in uncertain riches but to be generous and to help people and do good

with it.” It needs to be used, not hoarded or stashed away. For God’s system to work it has to be used, it has to be working.

Things run in cycles and will turn over, but it may be a long time before it turns around. Trust in God and be wise with what you have. You need to be balanced. Get rid of the waste.

The mind of Christ knows God is the source. It knows God is present always. Have you found that initial fear comes in certain situations? The mind of Christ needs to rise up inside because you know the Word of God, you have heard the Word of God, you believe it. The Lord is here. The Lord is with us. Emanuel, God with us. Suddenly your attitude changes. You can be in a room of unbelievers where you bring forth the Word of truth, and all of a sudden people are encouraged.

We were in a situation where a few of the family were believers in the ministry, but the rest of the family was not believing God. When they heard certain reports, they panicked. They were howling, crying, and not believing God. It takes a believer to stand up and say, “No, in Jesus’ name. We’re not to enter into this.” The peace of God has to be brought into situations or there will be no peace, and if there is no peace, then people cannot make proper decisions. If you make a decision based on fear and unbelief, it will be the wrong one, I guarantee it. It will be a serious mistake.

The mind of Christ knows God is the source, knows God is present always, knows all that the Father has for us will come to us. In other words, if you know your loving Father in heaven, and you know how much He loves you and how good He is, and you are doing what He says and honoring Him, then He is going to do what He says. You will not even be concerned about that because you are seeking first the kingdom of God, and then the Lord does it. Daily blessing will come your way from the north, south, east, and west.

### Going Ahead in a New Day

You do not have to strive to make something happen. You do not have to compete to make it happen. You do not have to compare yourself with somebody else. You are free to go about the Lord’s business, praising Him, thanking Him, living each day for Him –

whatever the day holds. You are not into tomorrow. You are not worrying or thinking about tomorrow, or yesterday. Yesterday is passed. It does no good to dwell on it. Do not kick yourself over something that you did yesterday, last week, last month, last year, or the last 20 years. You need to forget it. It is over. It is gone. It is a new day and the mind of Christ says you are going ahead with everything that the Lord has for you. You are living in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, just seeking to do what the Lord says.

The mind of Christ allows the Lord to occupy your time with gladness of heart. The Lord wants you to have fun with your life. He wants you to enjoy it. *“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.”* (Philippians 4:4) The Lord reigns. When you are not enjoying your life, you need to say (the mind of Christ will say), “The Lord reigns.” The Lord reigns in spite of whatever else is going on around, and you love to be in His presence.

The most important, significant thing in life is being in the Lord’s presence and loving Him. When you are in love, love covers a multitude of sins. When you are in love with the Lord, your whole attitude of life changes. When you do not know you are loved, you are grumpy and miserable to be around. People like to blame others. When they ask you how your love life is, and you say it is not very good, that is because you are in love with the wrong one.

If you know you are loved by the Lord, then you are free to be loved and to give love. But if you do not know you are loved by the Lord, then you are an accident about to happen. There will need to be damage control around you. You will mess up lives and you will be messed up because only the Lord can give stability.

Your attitude is shaped by the Bible. Measure the mind of Christ with what you are thinking. Is it lining up with what God is thinking? It is an easy adjustment because you already have the mind of Christ. It is a matter of obedience, and submission. We are not born of a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound, well-balanced, disciplined mind. That is what is going to make the difference. The more you exercise discipline and obedience, the stronger and stronger you get.

People who operate in fear have depression patterns. They run old tapes in their minds. Such tapes as inferiority and/or superiority need to be thrown away. Have you noticed how you were changed in the Lord, but after a while you went back to old tapes? You do that because you have done it for so long.

At one time we were casting devils out of a certain person, and the devil said, "Well, I have been in there for so long," and I told it, "I do not care how long you have been in there, and you have got to go." The devil answered, "If I go, I am their personality. I am who they are." And I said, "I do not care. You still have to go." We will take our chances because those things are not the person. For a long time they have deceived that person into believing a lie and thinking that they are that way, a failure, and they cannot complete anything. What garbage! It says the Lord has begun a good work in me, and He is faithful to perfect it and complete it. He is working in you, which means God makes you a success. He is doing it.

In life you get battered and bruised. There are things that happen all over the place, but the mind of Christ says, "That has nothing to do with me, for I am under the shadow of the Almighty. God has made me a new creation. The old has passed away, the new has come. I do not have to play those old tapes anymore. God has given me new ones, and we can play those. Everything good is coming from God, and everything good is coming out of me to bless people because I bring heaven to people."

Who would have a hard time with that? Somebody who does not want God as the source or authority of their life. The Word says they are deceived. They love the darkness, and they do not want the light. In John, chapter 3, Jesus said that they condemn themselves by not receiving the life of God. It is not God's heart and God's desire to be condemned, but people make the call. Even Christians who have Jesus as their Lord and Savior have been deceived and kept back by false teaching, by lies of the thief, by the old flesh, by man's church and the world's thinking which hinders them from having the abundant life that Jesus really came to bring – freedom in Christ.

Once you break out, you will get the truth and the truth will set you free, and you will know you are free. He or she whom the Son has

set free is free indeed. You will be limitless. The only thing that limits you in Christ is yourself. *“All that the Father has for me will come to me.”* (John 6:37) What He has for somebody else will not come to me. So you have to watch that. Jesus stopped Peter after He told him what was coming to him and Peter immediately asked, “What about John?” Jesus said, “None of your business.” In other words, do not take a thought about it. You do what you are given to do and let John do what he has been given to do. When all the parts do what they are given to do, the Lord is blessed and the kingdom of God is built.

The mind of Christ knows that everything is “Lord willing.” It is all contingent on what the Lord has and what the Lord wants to do.

I think that many times people do not really know how real the Lord is. If you would draw near to Him, He will draw near to you, and He will make Himself known.

Today is a new testimony, a new day. If the Lord has expressed His love in a certain way, I say, “Hallelujah.” I am excited how the Lord reveals His love to everybody, but He does it in different ways to different people. The fact is, He is going to do it. The Lord and I do not want you basing your life on feelings. Paul said, “I have not come with fancy words, I have come with demonstration of the Spirit in power that your faith might rest not on feelings and events, but on the Lord.” Otherwise you have a yo-yo kind of effect going on. Even though you have seen the Lord or He has done all kinds of things for you, the day comes when it does not look like anything is happening. You feel like you are an orphan by yourself, and where is God? He is right there, He never left, but you just need to get the mind of Christ back in and let it rise up.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
Three Facets of the Mind  
Chapter Nine

Listening and Speaking

*“We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:7 NKJV) We are like clay pots with the Holy Spirit in us. When we hear something that brings us down and gets us dirty, we become defiled. If something is not of God, do not listen to it nor participate in it. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, and unbelief comes the same way. It would do well for many people to turn off the news, unless they are praying against what they hear in order to overcome evil with good. Most people are not praying about it, and they are letting it get inside of them.

Jesus said to take heed to what you listen to. Does it produce faith, hope, and love in you, drawing you closer to God, or does it bring you out of the heavens and plant you down in the earth, defiled? *“As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”* (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV) Unbelief, worry and fear are defilement. Do not let it get inside of you because it will hinder you from doing what God wants you to do.

Have you ever thought that you could not talk to a certain person because he might get offended? I say, go ahead. How can speaking good things in faith, hope, and love be a bad thing for anybody? If you are talking about the Lord who is good, who is the only solution to what is going on in the earth today, how can that be a bad thing? The worst they could say is “Buzz off, forget it, I do not want to hear it.” We can stand rejection. Jesus was rejected by everyone; even His disciples left Him, and He could handle it.

Have you not loved somebody because you were afraid you were going to get rejected? God in us is bigger than that. The number one reason why people do not talk to others is they have no confidence, or they are afraid of being rejected.

Jesus said, *“Do not be concerned that you are being persecuted because it is not you being persecuted.”* (John 15:20) It is Jesus

being persecuted. Unless you are lying, cheating, or being nasty people are not persecuting you. If you are rebellious, independent, demeaning of people, and belittling others, they will not like you nor want to be around you. Build people up in the Lord according to their needs. (Ephesians 4)

When you speak, it should be as of the oracles of God. Let it build faith, hope, and love in somebody. If you are rejected for that, thank the Lord for the opportunity to have the boldness to speak the truth in love to people and give them the opportunity to have a blessed, abundant life. It is not your concern what they do with it. You want the person to see God's best, but how will they hear except somebody tell them? (Romans 10). How will they tell them unless they are sent?

The Lord told me years ago that if the people would be about His business, they would not have all the needs and problems they have. Not doing the will of God is evil. We have the Bible, God's Word, to show us His will.

God talks to our spirits, even though we have a mind and we have a body. These three components of spirit, mind, and body are like Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God made us in His image. When we received Jesus as Lord and Savior, He restored us to His image. We had lost it, but now we have the image of God and our spirits, our minds, and our bodies belong to Him. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6) We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

### Think about Your Spirit

Have you found that your spirit wants to do the right thing, but your mind gets in the way? The three facets of the mind are intellect, emotions, and will. The devil wants to get the mind because he cannot get the spirit. If he cannot keep us back from getting saved, then he works to blind the mind. "The lord of this world has blinded the minds of people lest they receive the glorious light of the gospel and be set free." (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4) That is why many do not feel a need to receive Jesus. They do not think they need to be saved. They do not know they are lost.

I was watching a film where a little lady said to another woman, “Have you found Jesus?” And the woman responded, “I did not know He was lost.” The lady was trying to witness about the Lord. Those without Jesus do not know they are lost because they do not think in terms of heaven and hell. They do not look at eternal things. What people look at is whether they have got cash in their wallet. They look at whether they are loved and accepted or rejected. They look at whether their car is working right, or is down in the shop, whether they are healthy or sick. This is how folks live their lives. Do I have friends, or “nobody likes me.”

People are not thinking about heaven and hell. They are not thinking about the battle in the heavenlies. They are not dealing with what they cannot see. *If God is real, let Him show Himself to me.* You know, Thomas, one of the disciples said, “For me to believe that Jesus is risen from the dead, He needs to walk into the room, stand there, and let me put my finger in the holes in His hands and the hole in His side.”

People out there are not even considering what you take for granted as a believer and what you are thinking about all the time. In fact, if I were to switch my label and go out and do motivational speaking, they would flock out for it. But when I start putting a chapter and verse on it, they head for the door because they leave God out of everything. Intellect, prosperity, money, health—it is all “in” because folks are trying to take care of their minds and their bodies. They are trying to take care of their families. They are trying to take care of their business. They are trying to take care of their relationships. But they do not think about their spirits.

### Simple Truth

A fellow wrote in one time who said, “Pastor Randy, I love what you say, but could you talk a little more to the intellectuals.” I am assuming that he was an intellectual. I wrote him back and said, “The way the Holy Spirit has taught me is to teach to a five year old, and then possibly an adult might understand what I am saying.” From the point where you were five years old, you went downhill. You do not receive things anymore in simple truth. You complicate everything.

Nicodemus, a great leader of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus privately at night when nobody else was around. (I have seen this with leaders of government, and leaders of churches; they come to me in private when nobody else is around. Why? They do not want to be identified with us, yet they want what we have to share.)

Jesus gave Nicodemus a simple truth. He said, *“Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:3) Nicodemus’ first response was to wonder how to go back into his mother’s womb. This is an intellectual for you. He was one of the leaders of the church of his day. Intellect has nothing to do with spiritual things, for the natural mind (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2) cannot understand, appreciate, or comprehend the truths of the Holy Spirit. You can understand other things, know everything about the cosmic situation and science, but not have any revelation about God because the intellect apart from God cannot understand the truths of God.

A little child receives. Jesus said, *“Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 18:3) The intellect says, “How can I go back and become a little child?” You cannot. That is why intellectuals have a difficult time comprehending the truths of God.

Paul said to the church at Corinth, who were very well educated, wealthy people, and blessed in everything the world had to offer: “There are not many intelligent ones amongst them,” speaking to the intelligent. “There are not many wealthy ones amongst them,” speaking to the wealthy. And “certainly not very many spiritual ones amongst them.” That was obvious when you read the letters Paul wrote to Corinth. They were the smartest, the richest, and the most abundantly worldly, blessed of all the churches, and yet he had the most problems with them.

So, except you become as a little child, you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven, meaning, trust God. How can I lay hands on the sick and they will recover? That does not make intellectual sense. How can He speak the word and heal people? How can He do these miracles? How can He know what is in my head without me telling Him?

People say it must be of the devil. They have heard about the devil more than they have heard about God. (I would really like to do an exorcist movie that was done right – where the Lord gets the glory, and the person gets free, and the exorcist does not jump out a window and die). The intellect needs to be renewed through different input.

God confounds the intellectuals in their intellect. He challenges them. He asked Job, *“Where were you when I made the heavens and the earth. (Job 38:4) Since when have you become my counselor?”* (Isaiah 40:13) Job did not have any understanding, but he got understanding. He repented for his lack of understanding and said, “Now I receive.” He got the right information, and he gave up the wrong information.

### Pursue Understanding

*“Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:1) It builds up. You can gain all knowledge and not have love. That is intellectual. God made an emotional side to us. The world has taught us that emotions are wrong, or they are used in wrong ways. In the Greek society there were the Stoics who basically just had a bare bones existence. They had one piece of furniture and it was hard; for there was nothing of pleasure. For the Epicureans, everything was for pleasure, like *if it feels good, do it*. They are still out there today. The Stoics did not allow fun in their lives. Their attitude was, “You are sitting in that too comfortable chair. It is a waste of money to have such a thing.”

If you really want to know something, you are going to pursue it with all your heart. One of the ways that the devil takes away the Word of God from people is shown in the book of Mark, chapter four. The birds came and snatched up the seed from the ground (the seed is the Word of God). The devil comes immediately to steal the Word from people when they do not understand it.

They do not understand it, and they do not pursue the understanding. The intellect will tell you, whether you understand this or you do not understand this. It makes an evaluation whether something is worth pursuing. Is that something you really want to know?

Perhaps you never thought about health principles until your body broke down. Do not you think it would behoove you to find out what makes this body work and what makes it break down? Or do you just keep indulging yourself? Just because you are married does not mean anything. You need to do something to learn about marriage, what is involved in it, and how to make it work better... Something to enrich, enhance, improve, make plans for the marriage, and work together. Start to get an idea about how that other person ticks and what makes them work, and how they think...

Soon after I got married, I threw my hands up in the air. "Lord, I need help. (And I was a marriage counselor. I was trained in the academics. I may talk simply, but I am very intelligent.) I said, "Lord, I need wisdom and insight about this lady. She is Your work, and I am trying to figure out how she works," and the Lord helped me. He gave me wisdom.

I ask couples this question, "Why do you want to marry this person?" And they say, "Because I love them." But I look at them and say, "Come back in 35 years and we will talk about love." There will be hell, high-water, good times, hard times, through thick and thin, and in-laws. When you marry somebody, you marry the family for better or for worse. You cannot pull that person out of their family.

Is your intellect still carrying baggage? Are your emotions showing themselves?

Do you get very emotional about what you believe? Did you find out that the reason you did not receive truth was because you already thought you knew it all, and you got emotional about it when anyone challenged you.

The Lord taught me at a young age to ask questions. There is nothing wrong with asking questions if you really want to learn something. It is offensive not to ask when you do not understand something because you will miss out on vital information. Your intellect has already made a decision, *I do not understand it so I do not want to do anything with it*. There are certain things you cannot do that with; for example, marriage. You cannot say your spouse is

not worth it and you do not need to learn about them. It will be easy to fail: just do not do anything, just do not bother with it. Did you learn to tie your shoelaces yourself, or did you get around it by buying shoes that did not have to be tied? There is something wrong if you bought shoes just so you did not have to learn how to tie the laces.

How will you get on in life if you decide what you are going to pursue and what you are not going to pursue, while God is saying to pursue something else. You do not want to do it because you do not want to.

### Your Decision

The third area of the mind is the will. You decide what you are going to do and what you are not going to do.

When people get into relationships, they will encounter a clash of two wills. Were you fine until somebody challenged you? The mind justifies and rationalizes, and tries to get things to fit the way you want them to be (you show how stubborn, independent, and rebellious you are). The rod of correction will drive that away before you are five years old, but after five it is going to get tougher.

You have heard the expression “You cannot teach an old dog new tricks.” Granted, you are not a dog, but both dogs and humans learn the same way. A dog has an intellect, emotions, and a will, and it is in a body. It does not have a spirit, but it has a personality. If you cannot train a puppy, how will you ever train a baby? The training works the same way, but it is easier to work with a puppy than a child.

The Lord said, “Thou shalt not steal.” Your intellect perceives that, your spirit wants to do that, but your intellect will start to rationalize and justify on the basis of the situation. Perhaps you had a thought run across your mind, *Well, they have more than enough, it will not matter if I take something that is theirs.* If you sit at a job and mess around when you are being paid for the time, and you justify, *Well, I am doing my job, I am here, I do my work, I finished my work and I have got time,* you are a thief. It is still company time, whether you have all of your work done or not. The intellect will justify and rationalize it. Suppose the boss comes up and says, “What are you doing?” and you say, “I finished all my work,” and he says, “You are still on company time. Why are not you looking for more work?” Do

not get offended and emotional because your intellect is justifying and rationalizing, while you are getting angry and upset. *I guess if they do not like the way I work, I will go someplace else.* Do you know what the boss will say? “Fine. Bye, bye, thanks for the time,” and they will hire somebody who will do double the work, and for less pay because they want to work. They appreciate and are thankful for what they have. At that moment the decision is being made whether you are going to be fired or whether you are going to be blessed. Many people cannot figure out why they are being let go. They let you go because you have an attitude. You may do wonderful work, but one thing that management does not like is an attitude. They do not like you thinking you know more than they do, even though they hired you because you know more. They will go with somebody that does not have an attitude over somebody who does, even though they have ability. They can train somebody to have ability. Or they can hire somebody to train somebody to get ability. Once you have got an attitude, you are refuse.

I have seen people dying of emphysema who continued to smoke. Your intellect knows you have a problem because it is obvious, but you do not think about health until you have got the problem. Then you have to do something. You are either going to live, or you are going to die. You decide what will be.

### Man's Testimony

*In my younger days I thought I was going to live forever. I was convinced I was going to live forever and I ate, drank, and smoked and did just exactly what I wanted. I stayed up late, got up late, whatever, we can all imagine that. Ate every single thing I wanted, and in my 40's and 50's it began to wear on me and at some point in my 50's I had to go to the doctor, I had chest pains, and the next day I had triple by-pass surgery.*

The next day means that it was so bad that he could have been dead before he walked in there.

*God was looking after me that I even made it that far, of course. Indeed. So, I had the operation, it all happened so fast I did not fully appreciate where I was. So, afterwards the cardiologist said you can have a steak if you want to have a steak. Just do not eat one every*

*day or two, three, or four a week, just have one every once in a while. In other words he was telling me I did not have to change my lifestyle greatly, just be a little more careful. I took that to mean that I could continue doing exactly what I wanted to do and so I did.*

That is the intellect, emotion, and will working counterproductively to what he was told to do.

*Then I met Sweetie Pie and began coming to church here and received the Lord again in my life. Pastor prayed over me, and the Lord told me that He would be happy to help me, happy to heal me if I had just stop hurting myself. My thing is, my phrase is, "If you are tired of getting hit by cars, get out of the road." Move aside. And so basically I stopped doing those bad things.*

Change.

*God still healed me, and this is the testimony. Not only did He heal me, but He made me better than I was before. I got out of the road and changed what I was doing. There is a measurement of how likely you are to have a heart attack (you would like to be at a one or so), and I was a 4.5. Then there were other tests including blood tests to take. After eating right for two or three weeks and doing some exercise I went from 4.5 per month down to .5, and all of the other tests were great. I went from taking 7 medications, all of them having side effects and impacts, down to 2 and soon it will be none at some point. So, that is God working and changing our intellect as you were saying, to mind God. Do what God says. And as the Pastor would say, I will be on this earth until I am done with what He has for me and not a minute longer. But not a minute less.*

We are making a determination. *"My people perish for lack of knowledge."* (Hosea 4:6)

It is not that he did not have the knowledge. He knew about people having heart attacks. He knew about the side effects of everything. It says right on the cigarette package what it will do to you. But people just continue. *"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child,"* (Proverbs 22:15) and they need to be trained in the way that they should go. Mind the Lord. Children are to mind their parents. Obey.

We need to line up our minds with our spirits that want to do what God says. Otherwise you have a war going on within you. Your spirit wants to do what God wants, but your mind wants to do something else. You intellectualize and justify your sin and your disobedience. Unbelief and disobedience to God is sin. It is choosing to do evil. You are either doing what God says out of faith (which is blessed), or you are doing evil choosing to be disobedient because you do not believe God. Luther said, "If you are going to sin, sin boldly." Get rid of all the stuff that covers and hides what is going on in your emotions.

### Not on an Emotional Roller Coaster

Have you ever been seething inside as somebody was talking to you? You were thinking the person was a dumb jerk, and you hated his guts, but to his face you smiled and looked lovingly at him. Eventually bitterness will develop underneath. Unforgiveness and anger will build up and erupt like a volcano. People will say, "I thought they had a happy marriage, and then all of a sudden it just blew up." It did not blow up in a day. It had been going on for a long time; it was just that somebody decided she would not hold the lid on it anymore. Worldly psychology that says it is okay, get a punching bag. It is better to hit a punching bag than to hit a person. But it is better to get rid of the anger than to hit the punching bag because when you look at that punching bag you see that person.

God says to walk in peace. The mind of Christ walks in peace. It is stable. You are not on an emotional roller coaster day by day where people cannot say or do anything that is pleasing. It is not based on whatever is going on around you.

The Lord has emotions, which is the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, meekness, self-control. (Galatians 5:21) Those are spiritual forces.

Have you seen love as an emotion? It is. But rejection, disappointment, and depression can all come out of not being loved. People tell you it is a love/hate relationship. That is not of God. But people have accepted it and just figure that is the way it is. Some

days I love him, some days I hate him, and sometimes it is just a matter of moments between the two. That is not God's mind.

The Lord says, *"I am the Lord who does not change."* (Malachi 3:6) What does that mean? He loves you with an everlasting love that never fades away or changes. It is not an emotional roller coaster.

There are elements that happen in the body that affect the emotions and the mind can affect the body. What you eat can affect your mind and body. Have you seen what happens with little ones when they have sugar? All of a sudden they become hyperactive.

The Lord says that He has put within us the mind of Christ, and the mind of Christ is stable. The mind of Christ does not feel rejection. It does not receive depression. The peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding comes when you start rejoicing in the Lord. (Philippians 4) Whether or not you feel joy right now in what you are going through, you can supersede it. The mind of Christ is full of joy. In the fruit of the spirit there are no negatives. There is no fear, worry or stress in the mind of Christ. God's peace rules in the heart and the mind. We know the Lord reigns.

Much of what you know intellectually determines how you will be emotionally, but your life is based on the facts of God, not on feelings, emotions, or ignorance. Flashing a picture of a starving baby up on the television screen does something to your emotions. Sadness and compassion come, and when they ask you to give so much money, you want to give something.

There is a difference between compassion and sympathy, though. Sympathy has no power to change the situation. In compassion, God wants to work a miracle. Before every miracle, Jesus had compassion for the people.

### Lean not to Your Own Understanding, Intellect or Emotions

Trying to figure things out with your intellect and then asking for other people's ideas leads to cumulative ignorance. Until somebody brings the Lord into the situation, that is all we will have. Wanting to go on an outing with friends or relatives, perhaps you asked them what they would like to do, and they answered "What would you like to do?"

You do not really care so you ask them again. The next thing you know, you do not do anything except have a fight, everybody stomps off, and you end the day that way. Why not say, “Lord, what would you like us to do,” and sit for a moment until you get an answer. He will give wisdom to those who ask. It is not about what you want to do, it is what the Lord wants you to do together.

Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding, intellect, or emotions. They say men operate from their intellect and women operate from their emotions. The truth is, intellect without emotion is out of bounds, and emotion without intellect is out of bounds. Using the intellect is not just about being cold and callous. The things that you believe are the things that you have received and understand to be true, and you will fight to the death over some of these things. This is where traditions and doctrines of men have come in and people have split churches over what they believe is true. There was a big church split over how we baptize people – in the name of Jesus or in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. However, Jesus includes the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

There is a controversy right now in the body of Christ about when Jesus is coming back. I was sitting in a study group one day and somebody took off on the topic (eschatology and whatnot). I was sitting there minding my own business but was watching a devil hop around the room. He hopped on one who was going off on something, and it hopped over to another who went off on something else. Then I watched it split, and it went onto all of them at once. They were fighting. This was a Christian Bible study! As I was sitting there thinking, *oh, wait a minute*, the Lord gave a word. He basically said to this effect that it does not matter when He comes; He is coming, and be ready. If you do not have faith to live life and go through persecution, you will not have faith to get raptured. The Lord said, “Live life like I am coming any minute because I am coming, and be ready when I come.”

People will fight about traditions and how things are to be done. Part of the issue I had with the mainline church was that the traditions and doctrines of men were being put before the commandments of God. People were not minding the commandments of God, but were

minding how we ushered, what liturgy service to have, what form of service, and what it means to be a certain denomination.

Martin Luther, one of the founders that God used in the Reformation to bring the word of God to the people and to get things back on track, said, "Let no man call himself a Lutheran or a Papist, for neither Luther nor the pope died for your sins." I could share what Moses said, I could share what Isaiah said, I could share what Jeremiah said, I could share what Jesus said, and I could share what Paul said, but when I started to share what Luther said, all hell broke loose. People actually stood up in the aisles shouting obscenities at me and telling me, "You are not Lutheran." I said, "Luther was not Lutheran."

When you stand before God, He will not ask if you were a Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Assembly of God, Word of Faith, Charismatic, or Charis-maniac. There are umpteen brands of Baptists because they split off on doctrinal differences, which were people's own understanding about what the Bible says. There is only one interpretation in the Word of God. It is simple to understand if you let the Holy Spirit direct you. I do not like many of the commentary Bibles because they contain the person's commentary. Just give me the Word.

At one time I was reading in a commentary about the dinosaurs mentioned in Job. (To all the intellectuals out there, there *were* dinosaurs. We have their bones as evidence). This commentary described the behemoth, which is the brontosaurus, as having a tail like an elephant. (An elephant's tail is like a noodle.) The brontosaurus' tail could have been 20 to 30 feet long. Here the Word of God was describing the brontosaurus' tail like a cedars of Lebanon. The cedars of Lebanon are huge and strong. That author did not believe what was written, showing his ignorance on the subject.

People will get upset if you start breaking their traditions. By the way, Christmas did not take place when we celebrate Christmas and the wise men were not there at the nativity scene. All of a sudden, you are shaking people's faith. Actually, no more than you are shaking their day to day operation. Have you lived like God was not with you?

I am talking to Holy Ghost believers. Something happens, and you are all shook up. That is not the mind of Christ.

Where you shook up when you found out that Santa Claus was not real because you found the presents in mom or dad's closet? Many a child has been devastated by that. The intellect remembers this. Why can you remember 10 years of dirt on somebody but cannot remember what good they said or did last week?

### Keep Your Mind Fixed on Him

The mind of Christ will let negative things go. The intellect thinks, *I am justified in feeling this way, and this is why I will never love again.* I guess you never really started loving because if you had loved God's way, there would not be any rejection in your life. There would not be any disappointments in your life because you are loved, you are secure, and you are not moved by whether the people love you or do not love you, whether they reject you or do not reject you.

Then people lock their wills. When the Holy Spirit goes into high gear, many people cannot handle it. In John, chapter 6, the people basically said, "We're out of here. This is too hard for us." Jesus was saying, *"Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have to life in you."* People were saying, "He is a cannibal, we're out of here." They were completely missing what God was talking about. He was talking about participating in His death and becoming right with God.

A devil told me one time, "If I leave this person, then his personality is going to go. I am his personality." I said, "You are out of here." I have also heard, "If I leave, then she is going to die." See, if I was not knowledgeable about what the Lord says and how people work, that statement would bother me. The devil was trying to get me off balance and to quit telling it to leave the person. We get really persistent at that point when the thing identifies itself or when God identifies it. Then it has to go.

What makes or breaks people is what is going on in the head, not the spirit. The will is in your mind, it is not in your spirit. That is the way God made us. However, when we received Jesus, we freely gave up our rights and our will to God. We do not have a free will anymore in

Jesus' name. Our will is to do the will of Him who sent me, and that is where we lock down our will.

God's peace rules in our hearts and our minds. No fear, worry, or stress. We are forgiven and we forgive. We enjoy life in Christ with others. There are no problems with God. There are no emergencies with God.

Look for God's glory and a good praise report. People are being Prozac'd and Librium'd, which takes out the highs and the lows, but it has side effects to the body that people really do not want to have.

The devil always has a counterfeit for everything that God does. He cannot duplicate what God does so he produces something that will have a similar effect but it does not have the full benefit. There is no addiction with the Holy Ghost. There are no negative side effects.

*"He will keep them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed (fixed) on Him."* (Isaiah 26:3 NKJV) That means taking out the highs and the lows. Can you have highs in your life? Have you been really excited, very happy, very loved? Who did it? Jesus. Is Jesus leaving you or forsaking you? Absolutely not. Your intellect understands that. With the mind of Christ your intellect understands that God will never ever leave you, even if you are doing the worst things in the world. His loving kindness is still going to guide you, help you to repent and come back to your right mind, and change your mind and turn to God and get back on the right track.

The difference with Judas is he did not know that God loved him. He had been with Jesus for three years and still did not know that. It is one thing to know it, it is another thing to believe it. There is a difference. How do you know the difference between head knowledge and belief? If you believe it, you will do it. If you just have the head knowledge, you may not do it.

Read the Victory book and gain insight into all the promises of God, but if you never do it, you will never receive the promise or the benefit of it. Many know about God, but even the devils know about God (and they fear and tremble). If devils are fearing and trembling because of God, you would think that people would get the drift. If

they are not in God they would be fearing and trembling too.  
Ultimately, everybody is going to meet the Lord, whether they believe that God exists or not. You cannot live in a wonderland without God. Only God can make a wonderland real.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
The Intellect, the Emotions, the Will  
Chapter Ten

Catch Your Thinking

*“We walk by faith, not by sight.”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:7 NKJV) We are not moved by what we see, hear, feel, or whatever is going on around us. We are moved by quietness and confidence. That is how the Spirit of the Lord leads. He leads in peace. There is no haste, no waste, no fuss, and no mess. We do not react. The mind of the flesh reacts to situations.

The Lord has everything under control. When depression tried to come on David because Saul was hunting him down every day, David said, *“Why art thou cast down, oh my soul?”* (Psalm 42:5 NKJV) In other words, Mind, *“Why are you cast down?”* (Psalm 42:5 NKJV) Being cast down has to do with what happens to sheep. When a sheep is cast down, it is flipped upside down, its belly up, and, it cannot right itself. David was saying, “Why am I allowing my mind to get upside down?” And he said, “I am not going to do it.” *“Hope in God, for I will yet praise Him.”* (Psalm 42:5) In other words, David caught it. We need to catch our thinking, and bring it under control to the mind of Christ. Some people do not ever hear what right is, they do not listen to what is right, and as a result, *“As a man [or woman] thinketh in his heart, so is he,”* (Proverbs 23:7 KJV) we have to quit dwelling on trash.

The Lord called me a garbage man, for He called me to the garbage detail. We are the last stop before hell, and we are snatching folks out of hell right and left. They are not getting across that threshold. Sometimes I feel like a goalie, with all of those pucks firing at me, and I am going to snatch them and catch them. We are winning this thing called life because the Lord is for us, He is not against us. Come hell or high water, it is not going to have power over us.

Back in the 1970's the Lord gave me a particular verse. When the Lord gives you something, you do not ever want to forget it. I was in one of those situations where I felt “damned if you do, and damned if

you do not.” I always thought I could love everybody, but I ran into a few tests. It was just demonic oppression because people are not the problem. There are principalities and powers of darkness out there that want to ruin people’s lives, and those are what we need to be dealing with. Those are what are oppressing people. Those are what are trying to harass. We get upset at people, but it is not the people. The verse the Lord gave me was out of Proverbs: *“When a man’s ways please the Lord, even his enemies will be at peace with him.”* (Proverbs 16:7 NKJV)

The devil will never be at peace with you, and even your enemies may still be hostile towards you, but who made them enemies? They are not your enemy. This is the key. You may say, “They are saying bad stuff about me; they are doing things to undermine me; they are trying to hurt me; they are praying curses against me.” So what? A curse unfounded cannot light. So, unless you give it power, it has no power. In fact, no weapon formed against God’s people can prosper. (Isaiah 54) Any word spoken against God’s people goes back on those that have spoken it; such is the inheritance of the righteous.

### Speak Life

Have you ever been stupid enough to curse yourself? Your mouth was created to speak life, blessing, praises, and thanks to God, to encourage people in the Lord, to minister things that will help people come out of their situation and give thanks to God. It was intended to speak life the way God intends it. God does not curse you. The Lord is speaking life over you because He loves you. I will not speak curses on my children or my wife. It bothers me when I hear pastors talking about the people. I say to them, “Man, they are God’s people. Sure, they may be acting like goats, but they are God’s sheep. They might be butting each other at the watering hole, pushing and trying to get one out of the way, but they are still God’s sheep, and we have been given the care of them.” Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. (James 3:10) It should not be so.

I learned from that verse in Proverbs, and I did not see those people as enemies anymore. If I do not see them as enemies, then I will call them friends. There is not anybody that I do not love, and everybody loves me. That is the mind of Christ. *“While we were yet enemies of*

*God, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:10) God does not see us as enemies anymore.*

During that time I had been thinking of what David said in the Psalms about striking down his enemies: “O, Lord, vindicate me and do all this for me and keep me, protect me, care for me, love me, and I love you, Lord.” People with issues have a problem. If I am really the godly one, then who am I to enter into strife? If somebody has issues, they are their issues, not mine. I am free to pray blessings, to care for them, and to know that the day will come when the Lord will use me to be a blessing in their life.

*“If your enemy hungers, feed him, if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.” (Romans 12:20) When it says you are heaping coals of fire on them, people may say, “Yeah!” But in the Old Testament when they put the coals over the sacrifice, it went up to God as a blessing. “Bless, do not curse.” This is the mind of Christ. Your flesh screams, I want to curse them. Tell it to shut up and sit down. You were created to be a blessing, not a cursing. What you speak on earth, God honors in heaven. “God calls things that be not as though they are” and they become. (Romans 4:17) God is in you and you are going to imitate Him and do what He does. Blessing is in you. You bring heaven, not hell.*

### Living Peaceably with Kindness

Romans, chapter 12, goes on to talk about living peaceably with everybody as much as lies within you. If you have the Lord, you have everything you need in you to do whatever you need to do, but sometimes you are not drawing on all that is in you. What is really in you? Many have not thought as highly of the Lord in them as they should, and they have not relied upon the Lord in themselves as they should. We have the love of Jesus down in our hearts.

I have seen how parents and children abandon each other, and how people treat each other because it is not convenient or working out. We live in a throw-away society, where people throw each other away when things get difficult. It happens in life that sometimes people betray you or do horrible things. I deal with the pain and suffering that people have.

The highest rate of suicides amongst helping professionals are doctors, psychiatrists, psychologist, pastors, and counselors because they help people, and they take it all on themselves.

Our new spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, meekness, kindness, long-suffering, and self-control. Kindness is something that God wants in the earth right now. It is undeserved. That means you show kindness to people who do not deserve it. It is easy to be nice to the people that treat you well and give you gifts.

*“I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me.”*  
(Philippians 4:13 NKJV)

We can be kind to people in spite of whatever is going on. That is a miracle. It is God’s loving kindness that leads people to repent, (Romans 2:4) and have it in us. The measure we realize that we have in the mind of Christ will be the measure that our spirit is able to release kindness into the earth.

### Filled with Fruit

The fruit of the spirit, God’s Spirit in us, and our new spirit which is alive to God, now have the mind of Christ. The old mind was only looking out for number one, but we are filled with joy, love, and power – the temple of the Holy Ghost.

Have you thought you lacked patience, peace, joy, kindness, or self-control? These are actually in your new spirit. The Lord is the vine, you are the branches, and the fruit is not for the branch or the tree. It is for others. God filled us with the fruit of the spirit (His nature) to give out to others.

The new you was created by God to give praise to God’s glory. By letting love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, meekness, and self-control come through you to others, other people will see that something happened to you. You are changed because of Jesus and the mind of Christ knows you are a new creation. Thus, you are going to act in new ways. You are going to bite your tongue every time you want to curse (which is not speaking the will of God for somebody’s life).

Have you looked at the fruit of the spirit as emotions? The reason you thought that you did not have patience, joy, or peace was because you were feeling the lack of it. The Lord has emotions, and He made us in His image. But when Adam and Eve fell away from God and brought that curse on mankind (that was passed to generation to generation) all of a sudden hate entered in instead of love. Confusion entered instead of peace. Hopelessness came instead of hope.

The fruit of the spirit are spiritual forces, and they do not change because God does not change. Those things are the qualities of the Lord. You are not a yo-yo, depending on circumstances or situations (you felt happy because you found a buck out in the parking lot. "Money cometh to me," you said, for God sends it because you are a giver).

### The Emotions and the Intellect

Satan wants to blind the minds of people because then they will not respond to their spirit or God's Spirit. What they will do is react, and when they react they react in haste. Reacting in anger creates separation and makes things worse. Righteous anger lasts only for a second. Anger should be only for the moment, it deals with the situation, and it is over. God does have anger. You do not want to be under the wrath of God, you want to be under the blessing of God. The wrath is not for the righteous. It is for those who do not receive the love of God and His provision for life and salvation.

Many Christians live like God is up there ready to throw a lightning bolt upon them, strike them down with a heart attack, or give them a cancer. People have been taught such things about the Lord. *"Only good and perfect gifts come down from the Father of Lights,"* (James 1:17) and if people are under the wrath of God, it is not because God hates them or does not want them to be with Him. It is because they have cursed themselves, going in another direction from what God wants. You reap what you sow in life. If you live to the Spirit, you will be blessed, but if you live to the flesh (away from God) you curse yourself. It is not that God has it in for you.

What is intended for evil the Lord will turn for good. *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers them out of them all."*

(Psalm 34:19) God is for us, He is not against us. He has finer things for us in Jesus. He has abundant life for us now as well as forevermore in His presence. He loves to do good things for people.

We have to watch where we are going with our thinking because instead of joy the emotion could be despair. Despair has desperation, and we are not desperate. I tell people not to settle short of God's best. Some young people see others getting married, and they think they will be old maids. They think they have to quickly get married to somebody... or quickly have a baby. People nowadays want a baby without a husband, but a child is not a little Barbie doll. You can ruin your life. Children are a blessing and should not be the fruit of a curse.

We have the mind of Christ. We can choose the right things of God. An attitude of Christ is "*Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.*" (Philippians 4:4) This attitude has an action.

The intellect looks at the facts, but if the facts are not seen through the eyes of God they become lies. When God looks at you, He looks through the blood of Jesus. He does not see a poor, miserable, wretched sinner separated from Him. He sees His own. Born of His Spirit. That is a whole different way of looking at things.

People think that love, joy, and peace are based on circumstances or situations. If you have the joy, peace, and love of the Lord in you, it should not matter what is going on. God is love, and because we are loved, we are now able to love. We are not coming into relationships with poverty and emptiness, expecting somebody else to fulfill our needs. It does not work.

Some people have a fear of rejection and feel that others do not want to be bothered with them. But how can you minister the love of God to people if you do not want to be bothered with them and you do not want to be around them? If you have been hurt, the Lord will remove your pain. The blood of Jesus at the cross took it from you. Emptiness and loneliness, depression, despair, helplessness, and hopelessness are perverted emotions. God says we are born of a spirit of self-control, and yet we allow ourselves to indulge. God says

moderation in all things. Just because something is good does not mean more is better. What is best is what the Lord has for you.

With the mind of Christ, you are content. You know you have what you need in Christ Jesus. You are not striving for something. You are not competing with somebody. You are not comparing yourself with somebody. You are not lacking any good thing. The Lord is our Shepherd and He is looking out for us. We are already loved so it does not matter what people do, one way or the other, with us, God love us, we are at peace, and we are free to minister God's love and peace to others.

Jesus told the Pharisees, "You go throughout the world making projects of people, and you make their lot in life worse than they were before they knew you." A person with the mind of Christ respects, honors, values and cares about people, preferring them more important than himself, is sensitive to what they are going through and what they are feeling.

Have you ever stopped for a moment when somebody was going off on you and asked the Holy Spirit to show you what their issue was? Why were they acting like that? Have you ever stopped and asked the Holy Spirit, "Show me why I am acting like this? What is going on?" The why question is a good question. Why are you feeling all alone? The Lord says, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you; (Joshua 1:5) therefore you can boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man shall do to me.'*" (Hebrews 13:6) The greatest fear that man has is being alone.

Devils prey on people. It says in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:8 NKJV to *"Be sober, be vigilant for your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour."* He sees us as prey and he is a fowler, a trapper, and he is trying to ensnare us in things that will take us out of the will of God, and get us out of the blessing of God. He works through the mind, through the intellect. Many times people have wrong facts in there, and other times he works through the emotions. You can make a decision of your will based on intellectual thought or your own understanding, or you can make a decision based on emotions. The latter will cause you to miss the will of God.

Guilt is not a part of my vocabulary anymore as a child of God. I ask God's forgiveness, and He forgives me as far as the east is from the west. The thief keeps bringing back up what you did or did not do. The sins of omission, or the actual sins (where you do it). If you are feeling like you should have done something and you did not do it, that is condemnation and you can be pressed down every day. The word says in Romans 8:1 (NKJV), "*There is therefore no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus who walk after the spirit and not after the flesh.*" Do not let the devil play around with your emotions anymore.

When the thought comes that you are not full of joy, say, "Go to hell in Jesus' name. I am full of joy in the Lord." This other way of thinking is 'stink'n think'n.' It is not of God. Even at the cross when Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing," it sure appeared like they did. But it had to happen. Some things have to happen in the will of God so that others can be blessed and saved.

In Hebrews, chapter 12, it says Jesus endured the contradiction of the cross, which means He was innocent but He did it for those who were not innocent for the joy that was set before Him. He was suffering horrendously. It says His body was marred beyond recognition. You could not even tell that He was a man, but He endured it all with joy for our sake.

Nowadays people have problems with a hangnail, or somebody does not look at them and they think they should. I have seen churches split over offences at the drop of a hat, and the next thing you know, they spread it to everybody else. That is emotions out of control.

Jesus says your life does not consist in the things you possess (or do not possess). People are always thinking about what they do not have. That is not the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ says, "I am blessed in whatever state I am in, whether I am abounding in much or little."

When you are dealing with emotions, you have to challenge that emotion; otherwise, it will rule. It says in Colossians, chapter 3:15, "*Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart.*" You can be at peace

even though chaos is going on around you. Line your mind up with your spirit. Peace is a spiritual force. It is in you.

You do not have to be angry. Anger is a secondary emotion. You are letting something else rule you at that point. Have you ever said something out of anger that you really did not mean? When somebody is angry with you and they are saying all kinds negatives, do not take it personally or to heart. They are dealing with issues in themselves, and unfortunately you came along. But then again, how do we look at it? I say, fortunately I came along because I have keys that can help that person. I have Jesus and I can help them. We will defuse the situation and get rid of the confusion. In anger there is always confusion. We are able to defuse the situation with the kindness and the love of Christ. *“A soft answer turns away wrath,”* (Proverbs 15:1 NKJV) and one of the fruits of the spirit is gentleness.

### Caring for and Loving People

When the Lord forgives, He removes it as far as the east is from the west and buries it in the depths of the sea, and He remembers it no more. *“Love keeps no record of wrongs.”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:5)

When you operate with the mind of Christ, and understand how the mind of Christ works, then you will be far more exceptional at caring for and loving people because that is the heart of the Lord. The most pleasing thing to Him is a genuine care for people, a genuine love for your family, a genuine love for what God is doing in you, and a genuine love for your neighbors, the city, and the nations. *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16 NKJV) It is God’s desire that nobody perish. He wants everybody to be blessed, and when folks are out of sorts they are not being blessed.

The Lord will give you wisdom and understanding in how to deal with situations. I had to pray for wisdom with my wife when we were first married. I was a marriage counselor, but I found it is another thing to be married. I said, “Lord, give me the understanding of this woman and the wisdom to deal with her in love, and to prefer her more important than myself.” I serve under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ – not to meet her needs (because the Lord meets her needs).

I am just frosting on the cake, and I am not coming in needy. To me relationships are an adventure.

God does not want His children running around angry, upset, bitter, and unforgiving. He wants us occupied with gladness of heart every day. He made us for that. We have to choose to do what God made us to do. We will rejoice for, *“This is the day that the Lord has made.”* (Psalm 118:24 NKJV) I will rejoice in God and in the day.

The Lord taught me years ago that the only thing I want to remember about people is the good stuff. I do not want to remember anything else because I forgave them. I ask God’s forgiveness for me as well. I am free in Jesus’ name. I do not have to go back. I am free to love and bring people joy.

When you are about God’s business and are equipped for the work of the ministry, you will have a lot less personal problems – because your heart is not about your life, it is about caring for God’s people as to the Lord. You will see amazing things. The day will come when we are going to see such incredible things happening. Not that we are not already; they *are* happening. We are one of those incredible things.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
Who Controls You?  
Chapter Eleven

God Meets Your Needs

We have the fruit of the Spirit, but we need to stir it up. Delight is something you have to stir up also.

You can know when you are healthy in God when your joy, peace and love are overflowing. If they are not, then you are not getting enough of the Word, or the Spirit with the Word.

Faithful servants are available to the Master. They are waiting on Him –serving Him. As you serve Him, whatever you need will come to you. You refresh others, and you will be refreshed. The day and age of the needy church is over. The lie of the devil is over.

The Lord taught me that His ministers are not doing their job. He said that the people contribute to it because the ministers think they have to care for the needs of the people. It is taking so much time that they are not able to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. The Lord said, “If my people were equipped to do the work of the ministry, they would not have any more needs because they would be about My business. As they are about My business, I am about theirs and they will not lack for any good thing.”

The lie is that people think they need to focus on themselves. Then they are not about the work of the ministry.

God is changing that. He is coming back for a victorious Bride, a wonderful Bride, not a needy old hag. We have nagged Him about our needs, saying, “God, you cannot take care of me, you cannot take care of my needs.” The Lord says, “I am displeased with that kind of activity. I am the Lord of Lords and the King of kings. I am the one who created everything. How dare you say you are not having your needs met.” He says it is pathetic. He says, “It is because you are not believing Me. If you were believing Me, you

would step up and start receiving Me. If you receive Me, then watch what I will do in you and through you.”

If you have come out of drugs, you need to help other people get free. No drug is acceptable. Every time you put an additive in your body, it affects something else in your body. I met with somebody recently who was on extreme medication. I asked, “Have you ever considered going to the Lord drug free?” The man just looked at me. The doctor’s report said there was nothing wrong with him, and Jesus had healed him, so why was he still taking all those things? He liked them. It was meeting a need.

### Grow into His Image

You can do all the right things for your health and still die early. One of the folks that wrote health books died while he was out running. Without the Lord and His blessing we can eat healthy and still die early. Have you surrounded yourself with toxic friends? Only sick people surround themselves with sick people. They are co-dependent, while they think they are independent. Being dependent on the Lord, independent of the world, inter-dependent with one another in the Lord are healthy relationships.

God wants you to grow up into His image to become a saint. Yes, we are saved by grace, and, yes, at times when we are not walking by the Spirit of God and are in the flesh, we sin. We need to ask God’s forgiveness, but that is the exception, not the norm. We still should not see ourselves as drug addicts, alcoholics, or perverts of whatever sort... (Unbelievers pervert God’s truth by not accepting it.) Many people do not really grasp that. Every time they worry and fear they think it is acceptable. They think, *I am a person, I am just human*. But you are not just human anymore in Christ Jesus. You are a child of the Most High God.

What Jesus was communicating in the religious church was considered blasphemy (that He was the Son of God). The Father said, *“This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”* (Matthew 17:5) Pay attention to Him. How beautiful are the feet of the messengers who bring good news.

It is necessary for you to change your mindset. *“When I was a child... I thought as a child.”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:11) There are many who are just children in big bodies. It is time to grow up and put away childish things. Watch two-year olds and notice that they want what they want. They are total dictators. They have to be trained to go in the correct way. It is a sad thing when a two year old runs the house. They will try, but it is not going to work in Jesus’ name. Likewise, for too long the ministers of God have been coddling people. They have been raising babies and keeping them babies. That has no place or power in God’s church. We need to get out there and witness Christ and get people born again. We need to fill the house with babies, but then we need to get them the Word so they can grow up and become everything that God wants them to be.

Many people act childish when things do not go their way. Babies throw temper tantrums. When folks get older, they just get more sophisticated at it. Some have this idea that when you grow up you do not have fun anymore. You get caught up in the responsibilities of life, you have got to take care of this and take care of that. Personally, I am having more fun than I ever dreamed could happen in Christ Jesus. I do not have a care in the world. I have a thousand things on my plate, but I do not have a care because I have childlike faith. God says, *“Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and in due season I will exalt you. (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6) Cast all your cares on Me for I affectionately care for you and watch over you.”* That is good enough for me.

I do not coddle anybody. I give people Scriptures to overcome their situations, which blow away those attitudes of the mind that are keeping them earthbound. Instead, be seated with Christ in the heavenlies. *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on things on the earth.”* (Colossians 3:1-2 NKJV) That is our position.

### All about the Will

The soul realm consists of the intellect, the emotions, and the will. The will is the area that makes the difference in everything. People will do what they want to do.

When the Lord made man and woman in His image, they had freedom and liberty to do good. There was no evil in their land, in God's creation. They were perfect, but like Satan, formerly known as Lucifer, son of light, he became the son of darkness, full of darkness because in his will he chose to go against God.

Adam and Eve's will was to do the will of God until something else was presented, namely, this fallen angel using a different form. He came to them with another way of doing things, challenging God's way. They believed him rather than the Lord. You had a free will until you received Jesus, and when you received the love of God in Jesus, you received your salvation. He gave you freedom to do whatever you wanted to do, but you were ransomed by the blood of Jesus from the devil. Jesus paid the price for what separated you from God. You were a slave to sin and death and He bought you, for He paid the price for the penalty. We then came to Him and He said to us, "You are free now because of what I have done." At that point, using our free will, we can say, "Lord, You have loved me so much, You have given Yourself for me. I now in turn do not want to leave Your house. I want to be here with You, and I choose to serve You." A bondservant. These are servants who are not slaves. They freely choose to serve. It is what we have done with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At that point, we yield our free will to God. The Lord now possesses us and we choose to follow His ways. We learn that independent thinking is not of God. However, dependence on people, others, ourselves, and of the world is not of God either. The world loves independent thinking: *be your own person, do your own thing, march to the beat of a different drummer*. Yet when you start to do that, the world says, "Get back in line." Have you ever noticed those "nonconformists" all look the same, act the same, and have the same kind of thinking and mentality? They are deceived.

Jesus said, "*I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.*" (John 6:38) That is why I am here on this earth. The "I am woman" or "macho man" attitudes are not of God. We submit our wills to the will of the Father, and all that the Father has for us will then come to us – blessing the way God intends.

Strong-willed children are totally into self. They will grow up to be strong-willed adults. The strong will is not the issue, though; the issue is what they are strong-willed about. Is it for self, or is it for God? I love a strong-willed-in-God person. Paul was out to destroy the church, being strong-willed, and when Christ showed up on the road to Damascus, He said, "Why are you fighting against Me?" Paul turned his strong will toward God.

The problem with the strong will (if it is not about the right things of God) is it creates all kinds of havoc for other people's lives as well as for the person himself. For example, it is pretty hard to keep a job if you are "anti-authority." It is hard to live in a family if you only want your way. It is hard to be on a team if you are not a team player. It is even hard to get along in life. Your children will be more strong-willed than you are because the cursing goes to the next generation.

We are all controlling people. A fellow told me one time, "Pastor, you do not listen," and I said, "No, I listened to everything you said," and I repeated it back to him. I continued, "I just do not agree with what you said. It is not of God, it is not going to help you, and it is not going to bless me." His idea of listening was doing what he said, and I was not going to do what that guy was saying. If he had been smart, he would have quit doing what he was saying. I do not know to this day whether he turned from it or not, but his children became just like he was. Having children like you can be a blessing or a cursing, depending on which way they go.

Who controls you? That is the question you have to ask because the will does not like control. The independent will does not like control. The person in Christ loves God's control. Parents who do not have control over their children are not parents as far as God is concerned. You can make babies, but if you do not have control, you are not a parent of God, and you are certainly not going to be able to train those children up in the way of the Lord so that they grow up and become the blessing God has intended them to be. To the contrary, a child left to his own ways will end in death. *"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child."* (Proverbs 22:15 NKJV) When children are allowed to get their way and do their own thing, there will be problems.

Who controls you? God, or man and the devil? Why man and the devil? Cannot you run your own life? No. Either you serve God or you serve the devil. It is one or the other. You may have thought that you were independent, but in reality you were either doing what God wanted or you were doing what the devil wanted. If you are doing what God wants, you really do not want to be in control. You want God to control you. You want the Lord to order the steps and direct the path.

If you have encountered peer pressure, what are you going to do with your will then? What about the fear of man? You were afraid about what other people thought and so you conformed to whatever image was around you. Peer pressure is the same thing.

*“The fear of man,”* Proverbs 29:25 says, *“is a snare.”* It will get you into trouble. Adam took whatever was going on with Eve at face value, received it, and accepted it without even challenging it. Who wore the pants in that family? Truth is truth and it will offend people because they do not want to hear it. Many is the time in the Bible where people did not want to hear the truth, and so, they got offended and they left, or they created problems. People shook and stopped up their ears because they did not want to hear what Stephen said. They gnashed their teeth and foamed, picking up rocks and killing him because they did not want to hear the truth. The will of man can get you into trouble.

It was their choice not to believe God, and then they took it out on Stephen. It is not a normal response (when you just disagree with another person) to go into a frenzy and kill someone. That is demonic.

The will, independent of God, will always end up demonically influenced. Possessed. This is why people need to line their will up. *“Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and in due season He will exalt you. Cast all your care on Him for He affectionately cares for you and watches over you.”* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7)

Have you ever willed to help somebody? You took the care of that person’s situation. You worried, feared, and laid awake at night thinking about it. You are not the Lord, so what you were doing was

playing God. The will of man wants to do what man wants to do. It is a good thing to help somebody, but if you are trying to help them on your terms and not God's terms, it is not a good thing. It is not bringing God glory, it is you leaning to your own understanding, trying to figure it out. Have you tried to do a good thing and it turned sour? Thus, you hear the expression "No good deed goes unpunished." It is not true, but it is true when that good deed is done out of personal self-gratification. You are doing it to make yourself look like a good person – consciously or unconsciously.

You can tell what your unconscious action is when you do something good, the person does not say thank you, and you get offended. Your motivation which made you want to do something is then uncovered by your getting offended, and you stand nakedly selfish. That good deed was not really a good deed at all. It was done for your benefit and not for theirs.

### Nurturing Admonitions

Being God-controlled is not negative. When that man was telling me I was a controlling person, what was I controlling with? The Word of God. I brought the Word of God, and I was enforcing it. In the church it is like a parent and a child. I am here to equip you. Paul says, "I am a father in the Lord to you." I am that way to many people.

The guy was saying to me, "I do not want to hear the Word of God, I want to do what I want to do." Maybe that person was not a Christian, or he is a Christian who needs a spanking. He is saying, "To hell with God; I am going to do what I want to do in spite of what He says."

I am of the mind that every independent, rebellious, stubborn person should do a season in boot camp to get the will broken. Break the will, not the spirit, in training an animal; and, you do not want to break the spirit of a child. *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurturing admonition of the Lord."* (Ephesians 6:4)

Admonition is forceful instruction where you tell the child do something. You do that when a child is small, and the rod of

correction drives the rebellion and independence away. Then you nurture them and teach them what is the right way. Children do not automatically know the right way to go.

We want to learn to let our spirits govern us. Our spirits will always do the will of God. Born again in Christ Jesus, we have an incorruptible spirit that will always do the will of God. Our mind relies on its intellect, emotions, and will, and it will in turn direct the body.

### Growing Up and Obeying God

My role is to bring the Word of God to people so that they know what God says. What you do with it is all yours. I operate the way God does on this. He wants the Word out there, and we will do everything that God has us to do, but ultimately if you want to go a different way I have no problem saying, “Adios.” Like the daddy with the prodigal son, he did not beg, cry, and keep him there. When I was growing up, I could never understand what was wrong with that dad – he gave the kid all his inheritance and just let him go off. I did not really learn what that meant until the Spirit showed me years later. I was of this thought early in ministry: *Let’s gag them, blindfold them, tie their hands and feet, let’s knock them out and throw them in the trunk, and carry them across the finish line so they can be with God.*

But the Lord said to me one day, “Son, you cannot do that.” God knows I wanted them saved. I wanted to see their lives blessed – spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and relationships. I knew that what they were doing was going to lead to problems, consequences, and/or death, and if they carried it on it would go down to the next generation.

The Lord will let you go to hell if you want to. Jesus says, “*My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.*” (John 10:27 NKJV) In other words, they want to do what God says and they love the voice of Jesus. There is not a rebellious bone in their body. There is not an independent bone in their body. But people have to grow up in the faith.

Some nice children come to a certain age where they seem rebellious and independent (they are called teenagers). Teenagers are not

monsters. What happens in them all of a sudden? You cannot treat them like you did when they were little. You have to switch gears.

I wondered years ago why all of these wonderful Christian folks that had gotten born again through the ministry, filled with the Holy Ghost, healed, delivered, with all kinds of blessings, and suddenly they were acting like wackos. I thought, *What is going on?* The Lord told me that in the spirit, “They are teenagers, son. They are growing up, they are not babies anymore, and they are sprouting their wings. That is a good thing. How are they ever going to handle marriage and life and beget more sheep and do all the good things if you do not let them grow up?”

I switched gears from being a disciplinarian to being a counselor, and I would set this before them: “You go this way, you will be blessed, you go that way, and there will be consequences.” I would help them look at and weigh it out. It was a different approach because they were not children anymore. They needed more time as teenagers than they did when they were little. Now they are becoming who God has made them to be and that is when they need even more loving guidance and care. They need positive support.

You do not see God saying, “You are just a flunky, and you will never amount to anything.” You do not see God getting tired of being patient with you. You do not see God slapping you around, taking you out back and giving you a heart attack and cancer in order to line you up, although that has been taught in the religious circles.

What happened was you went out from under the protection and blessing of God because you wanted to do something He did not want you doing. You become fair game for the thief who has come to steal, kill, and destroy. It had nothing to do with God and His goodness because God disciplines you with His Word. The evil one intends for evil... Remember Job. God said, “You can do anything you want with him, devil...,” but God was not giving him permission. He was just stating the fact that Job had left the protection of God (the hedge of God) and he was “out there.” God put a limit on that and said, “You cannot take his life.” In other words, God was going to give Job opportunity to come around, as he did (chapter 42).

There are testimonies that God sent a sickness to cause someone to come back to Him, or to teach him a lesson. No, God did not do it. If you had not been doing what you were doing, you would not have had to go through the lesson. There are lots of lessons in life that people would not have to go through if they had not chosen willfully to go outside of God's promise and blessing – decided to go beyond what was written and spread their wings and fly into Never-never land. God never intended anybody to know evil. Adam and Eve should have left it there. Just knowing good is not a bad thing.

People who want to disobey God do not like His control. They do not want to hear about God's law. They do not want to have anything to do with Him. People who are out of the will of God get self-righteous, doing "good deeds" to make themselves think that they are okay in God. The Lord says they are out of bounds. They are trying to prove something to themselves that they are alright so they get "religious."

One time I asked a lady where she had been. I had not seen her in church for a long time. She said, "I am out helping people. I am giving people rides to the grocery store, etc." Then the Holy Spirit rose up in me and I asked her, "Why?" She looked at me and smiled, "Because it makes me feel good." That does not have anything to do with obeying God and doing what He says. The Lord said, "*Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is.*" (Hebrews 10:25) Why would she do that? She was doing that because she wanted to do that. However, what she wanted to do and what God wanted her to do were different. There was no blessing on what she was doing.

*"Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"* (Matthew 7:22-23) In other words, doing all those good deeds on your own has nothing to do with the Lord.

Many people will ask, "Does not God want people driving others and helping them to get their groceries?" Sure He does, but under His direction. He is the Lord of that person. There is blessing under His direction. When people choose to do whatever they want to do, that

is why they are not really blessed. Being blessed is not just having your needs met. You can have all your needs met and still not be blessed. I know people out in the world that have everything that anybody could want to have but are without God. When the time comes, they will stand before God, and He is going to say, "Depart from Me into everlasting torment, you worker of iniquity, I do not know who you are." Those who say, "I found five bucks, I am blessed," I think *Oh, man. How immature and ignorant is that.* It is not about you being blessed, it is about you fulfilling the will of God that He purposed before the foundation of the world for your life. That is what living is all about, but people are caught up in their needs.

### Forms of Control

The counterfeit of a God-controlled life is a devil-controlled or self-controlled life. Your self-will and what the devil gives are the counterfeits. It is always about control. God intends us to be the God-man or woman under His control rather than the selfish person, for selfishness is cursed. The selfish woman nags. The selfish man oppresses. *"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord,"* (Zechariah 4:6) not physical force.

However, there is the power of the intellect and the power of the emotions. Have you ever tried to enforce what you think is right? Have you emotionally manipulated someone? Whatever works better for you is the one you use the most. Some go on crying jags.

I was with some parents one day and their boy was doing the stop breathing-turn-blue routine. The parents were going to go to him; and I looked at them and said, "Do not you dare do that." I asked if their child did this often and they said yes. And I told them it was because he got their attention, and he controlled them through his actions.

Whatever folks do – it may be crying, acting cold as ice, the I-will not-talk-to-you treatment – it takes many forms. It is all about control: their will over your will. It is what we call the "I am conqueror" game. I am the conqueror and you are the conquerorie and I am going to beat you down into submission until you give in. Have you had a child nagging you night and day about something until you finally gave in? (We are the conquerors. We are going to have war.) In marriages where there are two selfish people there will be two wills

trying to beat each other up, trying to wear each other down so that one is the conqueror. Once a spouse is beat down, what does the other one want? A beat-up, battered spouse? God forbid.

Diana and I learned early in marriage that we needed to yield to God. Not my will or her will be done, but God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. That is the only way we have been able to be together after 34 years. We are controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Start to search your life, for the Lord says through the apostle James (chapter four) that God opposes the proud, but He gives grace and ability to the humble (to those who submit to His will). The whole anti-authority thing came from the devil when he decided that he did not want anybody telling him what to do or how to do it. He derived his life and being from the Lord who created him and gave him everything he had, but he started thinking that he was more special than the One who made him.

You can see what an anti-authority and anti-law kind of working will do – if you find yourself challenging what the Lord says when you read something by your interpretation. People will actually go to different churches, where others believe like they believe to avoid the truth. However, everywhere they go they keep hearing the same truth. God loves us and He does not want us running from the truth. He does not want us exposing ourselves to demonic loss. He wants us saved and blessed. God is going to break the willful person who says everyone else is wrong. He will use the authorities many times with wrong behavior. For example, children are taken away by Child Protective Services, or a job is lost. Other problems and issues come up. Health issues come because people are not yielding to the One who gives life. Whoever would want to do that is exhibiting insanity. Yes, that is exactly the point. A person is out of his mind when he does not want to do what God says.

We need to get back in the mind of Christ and say, "Father, forgive me and help me here. Help me to start to act like who I am, a child of the most high God through the blood of Jesus." Then the strife in your life is gone. "*Where there is strife, there is pride.*" (Proverbs 13:10) You may have it going on around you, but not in you, and you

are not a part of it. Peace really feels good. You are not a part of someone's issue.

The harder you try to control your little world and make it just the way you want it to be, the more bizarre it gets. Let God be God; let go and let God. “[Jesus] entrusted himself to him who judges justly.” (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:23) Do what God wants you to do, and even your enemies will be at peace with you. “When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies live at peace with him.” (Proverbs 16:7) But people are not your enemies.

God would save the devil if the devil would repent and humble himself and turn to God. But the fact is, he will not, and what he tries to do with people is harden their hearts against God and against God's people.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
An Act of the Will  
Chapter Twelve

The Importance of Correct Information

As the Lord is generous, we are generous. That is an attitude of the mind of Christ. We make decisions every day based on intellect, emotions, and previous experiences. What has happened in your life affects you today. What people have said or done to you will shape you into whatever you are. *“As a man (or woman) thinketh in his heart so he is.”* (Proverbs 23:7 NKJV)

Jesus’ mind was not shaped by the negative experiences around Him, and it was not shaped by the information that was afforded to Him. Have you been hurt or bitter? Have you been swindled by somebody? You know you cannot really get swindled except there is a measure of greed on your part. There is normal blessing, and then there is abnormal blessing. Anytime you are promised something that is more than normal, it should be suspect. But when the Lord says something, it is the truth, and you can believe and trust that.

If it is what God says, the mind of Christ responds to it. It trusts, it believes, and it acts upon it. Our decisions are based on the information we have processed through our intellect and emotions, and the will is where we make the decision with what we have been given.

Have you ever made a decision based on your emotions? The intellect can shape the information we have too. The Lord says, *“My people perish for lack of knowledge.”* (Hosea 4:6) Because we do not have information that is proper, we will believe based on the information we have received. Have you found that the information you had received was not accurate? As you grew in God’s Word you started to see things were different than what you had thought, or what somebody else had told you.

*“The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord,”* (Job 1:21 KJV) said Job. That Scripture is truly spoken, but it is not a true statement. The Lord gave, but the Lord did not

take away from him. *“For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me.”* (Job 3:25 NKJV); and then it opened the door for the hedge of protection to come down. The devil said it could not be broken, and he could not touch the guy because God had a hedge around him. “God, take down the hedge so I can touch him, and then we will see if he is really a believer in you and is really going to praise You.” And the Lord said, “He is already in your hand. The hedge is down.”

I always found it interesting that the thief did not even see that the hedge was down. He leaned to his own understanding and got tired of trying to attack Job. After he kept hitting the protective wall of God, he left Job alone and went someplace else. The devil can only be at one place at a time. He is not God. So he figured he would pick on somebody else. Do not ever wish somebody else to get picked on rather than you. God and me are the majority, and we will take care of this devil and whip him ourselves in Jesus’ name.

### Lining Up the Will

I have to have the mind of Christ and the will of God that says nothing in hell can stop the kingdom of God. Nothing in hell can stop me in Jesus’ name as I am in the will of God because my will and God’s will are lined up. That is blessing time.

We have another will that leans to its own understanding, meaning that our intellect and emotions get caught up in what others are thinking, and peer pressure. Many times you can go with the crowd but the crowd is wrong. They are out of the will of God.

Remember Stephen in the book of Acts? The crowd was out of the will of God as they threw rocks at Stephen to kill him. Paul (known as Saul at that time) was standing there as a young man, and was shaped by what had happened. He felt it was the will of God to kill those Christians, to strike them down and imprison them. When he grew up, he killed and persecuted Christians, destroyed their families, and put them in prison, all in the name of the Lord. It was just as Jesus had said would happen in John, chapters 15 and 16. Paul’s will was lined up with something he believed in, but it was not correct as far as God was concerned.

We make choices all the time. As you are reading this, you are making choices to believe it, shelve it, or forget about it. Others are “gung ho;” *I am in, this is what God wants, God said it, I believe it, and that settles it, I am going to do it.*

I always thank God for people like that who take the Lord at what He says. They believe it, they want to do it, and then they do it. Blessed are the doers (not the hearers only), the obedient ones. Obedience and submission are trash terms in today’s vocabulary. People do not like honoring authority. They do not want anybody telling them what to do or how to do it.

It says in the book of Galatians that you can have a conflict. You can want to do the right thing, your spirit wants to do it, but your mind does not want to do it. So there is a war going on within you. Your spirit taking the Word of God knows the right thing to do and wants to do it, but your mind which has not yet necessarily been renewed by the Word of God is still operating on old principles. Your mind has to be renewed (Romans 12:2) by the Word of God so you know what is the good and pleasing and acceptable will of God. Then you start to do it. The mind of Christ in you has to daily override the old flesh mind.

### Your Will or God’s Will?

This explains why many of the wonderful God-people do a lot of whacky things. Every day the old self is trying to raise its ugly head and say, “Hey, did God really say... Does God really expect that I am going to forgive that person? Does God really expect me to give my money to Him when I have other pressing issues I want to take care of first?” When you tell the devil to get behind you but you are still hearing the voice, it is not the devil. It is your voice, the old you. The old one that was not controlled by God, and it was either controlled by the devil, the world or your own selfish interests, wanting to do what you wanted to do in spite of God. You willfully, knowingly went against what the Lord says. What 1<sup>st</sup> John is talking about in chapter 3 is if you willfully, knowingly, continue to go against God (it says, “Practice sin,” which is separation from God); you are not a Christian, you are of the devil. Your father is the devil.

Have you willfully, knowingly done something and you asked God's forgiveness? The Lord says, "If you are faithful to acknowledge Me and acknowledge what you have done, I am faithful to forgive you and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness." He said to the lady caught in adultery in John, (chapter 8:11 NKJV), "*Neither do I condemn you now; go and sin no more.*" In other words, it is over. That willful, knowing, continued going against God's will is over. The mind of Christ does the will of God.

We have the mind of Christ, and that is why we have to start to make some serious decisions based on what God says, not what somebody else says, not what I think about it, but what God says. The mind of Christ wants the knowledge of God, wants to find out what God says. It is not interested in how many cattle crossed the red sea. "*Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.*" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:1 NKJV) It builds up. If it is not about faith, hope, and love, drawing me closer to God, closer to what God is doing in me, and closer to others growing in God, then it is not profitable.

The devil knows the Scriptures probably better than most Christians. He knows it, and he twists it. It only takes a little tweak to make it false. He used it on Jesus. He took Him to the top of the temple and said, "Does not God's Word say (quoting right out of Psalm 91) that you can jump off here and God will give His angels charge over you and they will save you from hitting the ground below?" The devil tweaked it because the will of God was that Jesus die on the cross to save us from our sins, not that He die on the dirt because he jumped off, following somebody else's will, desire, and lead.

Have you ever been in trouble because you followed somebody else's wrong information? Or you got caught up in somebody else's bitterness, somebody else's hatred, somebody else's strife? You take a dog by the ears if you meddle in somebody else's problem. It is not your problem.

Two guys came to Jesus, and the one said. "Master, divide the inheritance between me and my brother," and Jesus looked at them and said, "Who appointed me your judge? You go work it out yourselves." That was an act of the will. That was an act of the mind of Christ. What you do is an act of your will. Either the new you or

the old one. One for blessing, one for cursing. That is how it works. But Jesus said, "I am not getting into this." He came to do the will of His Father. It was not the will of His Father to get involved in those guys' mess.

People often try to move you and get you to do something that they want you to do. And if you do not do it... Jesus says, "Let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no. People will not let that go. If they want you to do something, they will say, "Well, why not? Why do not you want to do this? I want you to do this." Check in with the Father (which is the exception for most Christians because usually we will respond in some kind of flippant way). When people say, "I will pray about it," it is a lie in most cases. They do not pray about it. If they do pray about it and they do not like the answer, they are going to do what they want to do anyway.

What does the Father want you to do? That is a hard thing when you finally get around to asking the Father. *"Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct the path."* (Proverbs 3:5, 6) And you finally get around to doing that, and the Lord says, "No, I do not want you to do that," but you still chase after what you want to chase.

### Self-Will and Its Consequences

I have seen where God put warning after warning in front of people, but they still pursued what they wanted to pursue. I tell them straight out, "This is not what God has." How do I know that? – One, the Spirit, two, the Word. Many times people are violating a principle. God is not going to work things to violate His principles. I do not care if an angel from heaven comes to you and says go down and rob the bank to supply all your needs. That is *not* the will of God. If the next day all your friends come along and say, "We're going to go rob the bank." You say, "Oh, confirmation." Just because the money comes in does not mean it is God. Just because the personnel come does not mean it is God. Just because the plan seems to fit, oh so perfectly, does not mean it is the will of God. Have you scrambled to put the square peg into a round hole? If you whittle it hard enough you can make it happen. But when the time comes and you need that square peg, you will not have it. I have seen this so many times with so many people.

Jeremiah tried to tell the people what was going to happen. Ezekiel tried to tell them what was going to happen. Noah tried to tell them what was going to happen. But people will do whatever they want to do, bottom line. And you are the bad guy because you say, “No, that is not the will of God!”

King Ahab’s son-in-law came to aid his father-in-law. Now Ahab was one evil guy. (How tough being stuck in that family.) There was Jezebel and Ahab, and Jehoshaphat was supposed to be a respectful son-in-law. Ahab wanted to go to battle with another country, and Jehoshaphat said, “Let’s pray.” Ahab never prayed to God. He was going to do what He wanted to do, and if he did not get his way, he was going to pout. When Naboth would not sell his vineyard, Ahab went home pouting. (Have you ever done that because you did not get your way? Did you throw fits of rage, pound walls, or throw cans because you did not get your way?)

Ahab got home that day and told Jezebel when she asked him what was wrong. He said that Naboth would not sell him his vineyard. Jezebel said, “Do not worry about it. I will take care of it.” When she said, “Take care of it,” she meant “death,” and Naboth was dead before the day was over. Then Ahab had the vineyard.

There are many ways to force your will, but the real plague to self-will enforcers is God. You are going to have to deal with God who is watching everything and who resists the proud (or the self-willed) people. He is going to bring them down because they are not following His will. They are pushing their own will, but they will not succeed. Even though they appear to succeed. Read Psalm 37. They are not going to succeed.

Jehoshaphat asked Ahab, “Do you have any people here that hear God?” The king brought a bunch of men and they all told him, “Oh, go to war, go to war; everything is going to be wonderful.” But there was a check in Jehoshaphat’s spirit. (Follow that check.) Jehoshaphat asked, “Do you have anybody else that hears God?” Ahab answered, “Yes, I have another guy, but he never says anything good about me.” There was not anything good to say about Ahab because he was an evil man.

So sure enough, the prophet said, "Yes, go to war. You are going to win it," but Ahab looked at the prophet and said, "Quit it. Tell me the truth." He was saying, "You never agree with me on anything." God was actually telling him, "Hey, do whatever you are going to do; you will do it anyway." God will say that if you are going to do what you want no matter what anybody else thinks. This is the hard one. I have seen many people have consequences that they did not have to have and ended up with situations they did not have to have because they did not do the will of God. The plight or the dilemma of a servant of the Lord is to bring the Word of God to folks who are going to do whatever they are going to do with that Word.

If you are doing what God wants you to be doing, you cannot be cursed. You can only be blessed. Folks curse themselves by choosing not to do what God says.

So Jehoshaphat was standing there watching the whole thing. The prophet said, "You are going to go to battle, you are going to lose, you are going to die, and your whole household will be destroyed." And it all happened just like that.

Knowing fully well what the man of God said, Jehoshaphat, also a man of God, went ahead and sided with his father-in-law anyway. He joined forces and went to battle with him.

The problem is that people do not really pursue what God wants. They are listening to a lot of other influences and other voices. It is very convenient to put away what the man of God says because you want to do something else. You can just say, "Well, that is just your opinion, man of God." Have you ever done that?

Jehoshaphat went into the battle. Ahab dressed him up in his armor, not caring about Jehoshaphat one little bit. People who want to do their thing do not care about you at all, and they will use you and abuse you and eventually cast you aside when you are of no use to them for their purpose. That is exactly how the devil operates. Whose influence are they following? If they are following self-will, they are following the devil. You cannot serve two masters. You either serve one or the other.

The enemy attempted to kill Jehoshaphat because they thought he was Ahab, but Jehoshaphat was spared by the Lord. It says a stray arrow hit Ahab and killed him. However, that arrow was not stray. It was a guided missile. Do not ever think that evil people get away with what they are doing. Do not ever fret over evildoers (Psalm 37:1) because "every dog has his day." In the Bible "dog" means "unbeliever." God spelled backwards is dog. They are not doing the will of God. Your puppy is smarter than that.

What made Jehoshaphat risk his life knowing what kind of father-in-law and mother-in-law he had? When you marry somebody, you marry their family.

Jehoshaphat could have died. When he went back home, a man of God came to him and said, "*Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, the wrath of the Lord is on you.*" (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 19:2)

Have you ever thought it was loving to help somebody who was opposing God? It says if you help them, you are getting in God's way of dealing with them. God tears down to build back up. He has to get rid of it, so the good can grow and flourish.

People do not want control. They want freedom. The Word says foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child. They would go to that sugar jar and eat it all. There has to be a restraint, but most people do not know restraint. To them freedom means getting their own way.

### Boundaries Afford Freedom

It is just as easy to be joyful as it is to be depressed. It is just a matter of clicking into the mind of Christ and kicking out the other one. We are always controlled by something. If you are controlled by the Holy Spirit you will be joyful. If you are controlled by the devil and your own stink'n think'n, you will be depressed and anxious. Only God can give true freedom.

When you look at the attitudes of the mind of Christ, you will see that is possible with God. It is called the law of liberty in the book of

Romans. God-boundaries afford freedom because you know where you can go that is blessed, and you know what is out of bounds, what is cursed. If you do what God says, you will be blessed. If you do anything else you are cursing yourself.

If you give a child boundaries, they have great joy, confidence, and peace because they know what is right, what is acceptable, and they know what is out of bounds.

One time my children were kicking up a little with each other, and I looked at them and said, "Who are you?" And they stopped what they were doing and looked at me and asked, "What do you mean?" And I answered, "I do not know who you are." And they said, "We are your children." And I replied, "Not the way you are acting. You are not acting like my children. My children are obedient. They do not fight with each other. They get along." If one presses the other's buttons, well, get rid of the buttons. Just because somebody's got an issue does not mean you have to enter into the issue. They will try to get you into it and draw you in by appealing to your intellect and emotions. The Lord says, "Get all the facts." In other words, get the truth out of this.

When I was a young man, a little kid was throwing rocks at people and broke some windows. My friends and I took the kid down to his momma's and knocked on the door. We told her what was going on, but she looked at her son and said, "My little boy does not do stuff like that." That guy could be in prison today because his mother would not face the situation.

Unconscious to ourselves, we may think we are doing what God wants, but that still remains to be determined by God. He is the only one that can someday determine what we did with this life for better or for worse. He is not going to give you a reward for many things that you thought were really of God and really good. It was just something that you thought up. God only rewards what He wants.

### Kinds of Power

*"Not by might or by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord Almighty."*  
(Zachariah 4:6)

People led by the intellect or emotion are led by the power of their own understanding. When you think about might or power, you think about force. You think about aggressive might, strength, or physical strength. But the Holy Spirit was showing it does not have to do with that at all. Although that is one of the ways that people control others – through physical violence, physical force, verbally yelling. They may not strike you physically but they are abusing you with their words. Whoever said “sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me” must have had their head stuck in the sand. Words cut right through to the heart, especially if it is coming from somebody you care about. If it comes from somebody that you do not care about, you might consider it a minute, but then you will basically let it go. When it comes from somebody close to you, that is when it grabs you and takes hold.

A guy was railing on me one day (I always consider what folks are saying) but after he got done I looked at him and said, “I am sorry, my Father does not talk to me like that.” It was the tone, it was what he was saying that was not the way my Dad talks to me. Jesus says, *“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, they follow me.”* (John 10:27 NKJV) Sometimes we need a strong word. A strong word will come through with force, but it will not ever demean or destroy.

You do not want to destroy people with the words you say, but you can destroy what is not of God by breaking the will (but not the spirit). A thought process has to be changed because otherwise they are going to go to a place they do not want to go.

Our intellect has power. Our emotions have power. They have power over us if we rely on them and lean to our own understanding. When you lean to your own understanding, you are giving power to your intellect which judges things by what you see and hear. It processes what you know to be true from the past. Trust issues and authority issues all go back to that. How can you have another authority in your life if you want to be the authority? One or the other has to go. Obedience is a miracle. Submission is a miracle.

As strong as Diana is, I know when the bottom line is drawn she is going to do the will of God. We all have to deal with whether we will let our intellect or emotions rule, or will we allow what God says (the

will of God) to rule? We have to make that decision every day. Being Spirit led is where God-understanding and God-control comes in.

*Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

### Receive the Love of God

As soon as you acknowledge the Lord, then He will come into the situation. He will not override you unless you give Him the override. Free will died when you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You gave up all rights to your free will. As a Christian, you have no right to do anything except the will of God, for your life is not your own. You are a temple of the Holy Spirit, bought with a price. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6) When Jesus at the cross set us free, we received the love of God, we received the blood of Jesus, and the Lord comes to us now and says, "Everything I have done has set you free. You are free to do whatever."

You are completely free to do whatever. You can go to heaven or you can go to hell. You are not under the devil's bondage, the control of sin, and the curse of sin and death anymore.

What you do in turn is respond to the Lord's love, and you say, "Father, you love me so much. You have done all this for me to set me free." Just picture the iron shackles falling to the ground, falling off of you. You respond to the Father, and say, "Father, because you have loved me so much, I now want to serve you." An act of the will. You freely give yourself to the Lord because He freely gave Himself to you. With all your heart, mind, and all that is within you.

Commandment #1: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul. With all that is within you.

I could not follow that commandment until I received the love of God in Jesus Christ. I could not follow any of the commandments until I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I could do nothing pleasing to God. When I respond to that love, I give up all rights to what is known as free will. I have no free will anymore, but I am not a robot. God has given me His Spirit and His mind freely. He lives in this clay

pot called a body. Someday when I die or the Lord comes back, I will receive a new heavenly body. Those that are dead in Christ rise to meet the Lord, and they will be changed. We also will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. God will give us a spiritual body to go with the spiritual mind and spirit, so you will have all three again, completely eternal and completely of God.

We have to realize that we are now bondservants of Christ. We are servants and sons. All that remains is Christ and following the will of God. The Lord says there is no separation between us because now “When you released your free will to Me, and you gave yourself to Me, I now have come and possessed you with My Spirit, My mind, and My body.” *“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:15) – *“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:19) God is filling the house with His presence, and so, your will is to do the will of Him who sent you. Like Jesus. “I come, O Lord, to do your will,” Jesus says.

We are possessed with the Spirit of the living God. We belong to Him. Galatians 2:20 – *“I am crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who lives but Christ who lives in me,”* the godly for the ungodly. The life I now live I live by the faith of the son of God. All our weaknesses are gone. Christ is in us, the hope of glory. The only way I see weakness through my intellect and my emotions is because I am looking at the old me - the one who needed attention, the one who needed affection, the one who needed love, the one who needed something stimulating to happen in life situations in order to be happy and joyful. The new me already has all the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, meekness, and self-control that it needs. It is all part of me. We have it all, so our life is no longer dictated by feelings, circumstances, the world’s systems, and the things that others are doing to us. Our world is controlled by the Holy Spirit. God has been ordering your steps from before the foundation of the world. God knew you, He loved you, and He knew you would be here today reading this and be about His business. He knows what you are going to do before you do it.

People ask, “Has God predestined that?” No, but He knows what is going to happen. As we acknowledge Him, He will order our steps. If

He predestined every move we made, then we would be robots.  
Would you like to be married to a robot?

We want the Lord to love us through whoever we are with. It is not about our needs. That is of the earth, it is not of Christ, it is not of the heavens. The mind of Christ knows we have all our needs satisfied. We are completely satisfied in Christ Jesus.

It does not matter whether he or she is doing what I want. That is low life living. *“Since you then be risen with Christ set your mind [your affection] on the things above, not on the things beneath.”*  
(Colossians 3:1-2)

Proverbs 3:5 and 6 – I am going to trust the Lord. I am going to lean not to my understanding based on my intellect and my emotions. I am not going to run my life that way.

### The Law of God

Control is either of the flesh or by the Spirit. You cannot serve two masters.

Paul said, *“The good that I will to do I do not do,”* (Romans 7:19 NKJV) speaking about the battle between the unrenewed mind and the spirit. He said saying, *“Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 7:24-25) So then in himself (in his mind) he is a slave to God’s law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

That condition is “before Christ.” Under God’s law all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There is none that doeth good, no not one. The law of God cannot save us. The Old Testament law was the tablets of stone and the New Testament, Hebrews says, is the law of God written on our hearts. We are made to do the law of God. We are born again to do the law of God. We can do it now because we are His children. We could not do it before, we could not keep His will because we wanted to do our own will.

Romans 8:1 *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

The condemnation comes from the curse of the law which happens through disobedience. If you are not disobedient, then there is no condemnation. Referring to the prophet, King Ahab said, "I do not feel good around this guy, I am always condemned." I have heard people say when they go to church that they feel condemned. If that is the case, then there is something in their life that is out of line with God. The Holy Spirit is pointing it out, and if they would humble themselves and submit themselves to God and get rid of the pride, then they would not be condemned anymore. They would be forgiven and free.

If you are a Christian, and you are not doing what it says in the Book, then the Holy Spirit will condemn you about it and you will feel guilt. There is a God-guilt and then there is a devil-guilt, and the devil will not dump guilt on you when God is making you feel guilty because he wants you to deny your guilt and say, "You are wrong, God, and I am right." That is called self-justification. Self-rationalization. You are trying to say that you do not have a problem, everybody else has a problem. "God, you have the problem; you are wrong and I am right."

*"Though you slay me, yet will I trust Him"* (Job 13:15), Job said self-righteously. Over time it worked its way out. He did not have understanding about who God is. Instead, he thought God was doing all the bad things to him to teach him a lesson. But "I am still going to praise you even though you do all kinds of bad things to me, God. I am still going to trust you." The self-righteous church thinks that attitude was self-righteous. But Job was basically saying, "God, you have got issues, but I am going to hold the line." He repented of all of that in chapter 42. He changed his mind because he got truth and understanding.

If you are doing what is right there is no condemnation, and if you are right because of the blood of Jesus, and you are not operating in self-will, then there is no condemnation. If your heart (your spirit) does not condemn you, then you are right. (1<sup>st</sup> John) Your unrenewed mind will not condemn you because it will cover for you.

David says in Psalm 32:3 *"When I kept silent, my bones wasted away."* He had been covering for himself. Over nine months he

denied what he had done wrong. You might say, “Man, he was a total man of God too!” Well, it can happen to anybody. We have to encourage each other and help each other. Ultimately, you have to recover yourself out of the snare of the devil. (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:24-26) People have to come to their own senses.

We are going to believe for God’s best for one another, we are going to encourage each other to do the right thing, but ultimately we stand accountable to God for what each of us is doing.

Because through Christ Jesus *“the law of the spirit of life set us free from the law of sin and death.”* (Romans 8:2) That is what is working in us – spirit, mind, and body. That is what blesses me and gives me all that God has.

### What Would Jesus Do?

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1 says that all the divine promises were intended to cause God’s divine nature to mature and grow in us, that we be like Him in Christ Jesus. The lie of the devil to Eve was that God did not want her to know about evil because then she would be like Him. There was some truth to that because God did not want her to know about evil. What good would come from her knowing about evil? None. She lost what was good because she went with what was evil and disobeyed God. No good thing can come to anybody who is going against the will of God. *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”* (Galatians 6:7-8 NKJV)

Yield to the Spirit of God. Defer to the Spirit of God. He is the Master. If Jesus Christ is your Lord, you have no right to anything in your life anymore. The Lord is the Lord of your life. That is totally foreign to the world’s way of thinking: *Be your own person, do your own thing, do not submit to anybody*, yet it works against them. If you want to hold a job, you have to submit. There are many people who went off on their own because they could not submit to authority. However, you are always under authority wherever you go. Try to be independent on your taxes and see what happens. Now, it was actually set up as a voluntary system, but just try to be voluntary. I

yield to what Jesus said: *“Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”* (Luke 20:25)

Taxes pay for roads, for example. If it was left to a voluntary system, people would be complaining because they did not have sewers, roads and other things. People want all the benefits but they do not want to contribute. That is just a selfish fact.

But the mind of Christ asks, “What is good for the community? What needs to be done? Where can I help? What does God want me to do?” The Lord is always improving and making things good and blessed. If things are left to themselves, they would just go to waste. That is a willful choice. That is a willful decision. You are either going to benefit people’s lives, or you are going to be a curse and a pain to them. It is one or the other. And it is according to their needs.

When you give a gift, do you pray and ask the Lord what He wants you to give them? Or do you give them something you think would be a nice thing to give, or do you ask them what they would like? Or, do you give them something that somebody else gave you that you did not want?

Recycling is not necessarily a bad thing, however, unless you have already worn it 30 times and put a hole in it or something, and now you are passing it on.

There are many things that have happened to you in your past that shaped and formed you into what you are today. Many of those things were not of the Lord. Ask the Lord to cleanse you and break those things out of you that have kept you back from experiencing the abundant life that God has really given you in Christ Jesus. Ask Him to help you to start to think His will and forget about your own (and others) so that you might be free to enjoy all that He has in you and through you to others in Jesus’ name. Thank the Lord for freedom to do the will of God.

Ask yourself, *What would Jesus do?* It is a wonderful question. You have what God’s Word says. Then He will show you what to do and how to do it. He will give wisdom if we lack it. He will show us what His will is. The Book of Ephesians says to know the will of the Lord.

What does God want? Do not be quick to rush in and make a decision. Do what you know to do based on God's principles. That is the good information I want my spiritual intellect to have. I want His Word in there. "*Bless, do not curse*, bless, do not curse, bless do not curse." Repetition is good. Get it in there. Speak life, speak the faith, and speak the will of God. He calls things that be not as though they are about yourself or about somebody else. We are pressing into what God has. We are changing daily into the image of the Lord. If you mess up, ask God's forgiveness and get back doing the right thing. Before long the mess-ups will not be as often. Do not be looking for the next time you will do wrong, but look for the next time you are doing the good thing. That is what we need to be looking at. Purpose.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**

Keep God's Principles with all your Heart  
Chapter Thirteen

God's Assignment for You

After Jesus had risen from the dead, He told Peter what he would be doing. He did not bring up the fact that Peter betrayed Him, did He? The Lord does not find fault that way. We do not even need to go there because it does not do any good. You have probably betrayed Jesus at least once a day.

You can spend your whole life going into places that are not profitable, and as a result you do not get done what the Lord wants done. Trying to figure everything out does not work. You become disappointed and discouraged, going to all kinds of places you do not want to go. There is no peace and joy.

Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" He was just asking the question. Peter said, "Of course, I love you; you know I love you." Then Jesus asked him again. Peter wondered why He was asking him. "Of course, Jesus, I love you. You know I love you." Then Jesus asked a third time, "Do you love Me, Peter?" He said, "Yes, Lord, I love you." Each time Jesus said, "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep," and the third time, "Feed my sheep." No sooner did Jesus say this than Peter was already thinking, *What about him (John)?* Jesus basically told Peter "It is none of your business what John is going to do. If God chooses to have him live forever, he will live forever." The rumor began that day that John was going to live forever. Interestingly, John was the only disciple that was not martyred. They tried to put him in boiling oil, but he bubbled back to the top. They could not kill the guy so they exiled him to the island of Patmos. To isolate him from people was their goal, but that is the place where the Lord gave him the Book of Revelation. John was not finished yet, and the Lord gave him the revelation so that we could know the end of the matter. Thank God for the revelation that was given: We win.

Many people need to know that at the finish we win. Keep your eyes on the finish and the Author and Finisher of your faith because we win this thing called life.

The mind is always trying to figure things out. But the mind of Christ knows what it needs to know, and it knows that whatever it needs will be revealed to it in its proper time. Thus life is free of striving, free of stress, free of pressure, free of all the other things that discombobulate people.

According to Matthew, chapter 18, if somebody sins, first he needs to be dealt with in his own heart before the Lord. Secondly, it says to bring two or three believers to him and deal with it. If the person does not change, then we bring it to the church. The goal is to love and restore people and get them on the way that God would have them to go. The double life is over. We become accountable and responsible for our lives.

It is important that we encourage each other and stand together to get through situations. But we have to come to a place in our life where we recognize certain things are not acceptable and cannot continue. They have to be different. As we grow in understanding in the mind of Christ, we see that the blood of Jesus has forgiven me and cleansed me. If I am faithful to acknowledge my sin to God, He is faithful and just to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. But we cannot be doing the same thing willfully, knowingly, and continuing to practice it. The Word says that person is not a child of God. Because greater is He that is in me than whatever is out there in the world.

The Lord in you is greater than whatever else you have been dealing with in these cycles of life, but there comes a point where you have to allow the Lord to be greater. *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJV)

As soon as you go with God and take a stand in the right direction, the attack comes. You can become stupefied and dull when oppression starts. It is like the lamb being led to the slaughter. This happens within a person because the demonic influence is trying to draw. Right away you have to raise your hands and say, "The blood of Jesus covers me, and in Jesus' name you get out of here right now!" Start praising God and do not let yourself get sucked into that stupefied state that is like a wet blanket coming over you.

There is nothing worse than somebody who purports to be godly but lives like hell behind the scenes. I would rather deal with a flat out sinner. Would you were cold than to be lukewarm. That kind of person has one foot in heaven and one foot in hell. The Bible calls them carnal, or fleshly.

#### The Natural Mind vs. the Mind of Christ

The mind of Christ has an intellect, emotions, and a will just like the natural mind. The natural mind is the counterfeit of the way God intended it. God intended that we have the mind of Christ from the beginning - that we have the spirit, the mind, and the eternal body. After the fall of mankind the counterfeit came in and corrupted, and man's spirit died, the mind was corrupted (fallen) and did not think about heavenly things any more. It went to natural, earthly, sensual, devilish thinking, and death came in to deal with the body. It became corruptible and would die.

When Jesus comes into our lives and we receive the love of God, our spirit is born again, a God-spirit, incorruptible seed. The mind of Christ is given to us, and through the Word of God we renew our thinking (like new computer data) and a whole new way. We had to throw away the old tapes and destroy them because they were corrupted. The old ways influenced by the devil, the world, and my flesh (the old selfish me) were perishing. Those old tapes will bring death so you have to destroy them. Every thought needs to be brought captive to the mind of Christ, which we have. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:3-5 talks about how the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (fleshly), but are spiritual, and they are "*mighty to the pulling down of strongholds.*" We need to cast down those false imaginations and reasonings of the mind that are exalting themselves against the Word

of God. The old mind was at enmity with God. It did not want God. It did not want God's authority in its life. It did not want anybody telling it what to do or how to do it. It wanted to do its own thing.

As a result you will run into somebody else who will have a stronger influence than you so you do not get your way. That is the way it is in the world, let alone the fact that God says that if your mind is opposed to Him, then He is opposed to you. He will resist the proud and give grace and ability to those who submit and humble themselves.

### The Body and the Flesh

The body needs to be brought under control to our spirit. We now hold this treasure of Christ Jesus within us, and the body is like a clay pot. Actually God is now possessing it. You cannot have God possessing you and a devil possessing you. You have to give up allegiance to the old things. Those things come in through the old flesh. Paul said, "I daily have to die to the selfish, self-centered me."

When you walk into the church building, it is like a refining furnace. That old flesh will disengage as the Spirit of God starts to move. When you step outside, out of the fire, you have to keep the fire within you because *"For as he [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he."* You are either a Christian or you are a sinner. One is saved and one is damned. It is one or the other. Thinking you can have both is a deception. Think about it and look at it. You either give your life completely to the Lord where He is your Lord, not just your Savior, and He runs your life, or you do not.

You cannot serve two masters. You can never just serve yourself. You think you can but that is the deception of the devil. You either serve God or you serve the devil. It is one of the two.

When Jesus saved us, He bought us back from the devil who was our lord at that time. Jesus told the leaders, "You think God is your father, but I say to you, your father is the devil because you do not receive me and do not believe upon me."

### Live By God's Principles and Absolutes

This is very critical – live life by God's principles in God's intellect.

The mind of Christ has the components of intellect, emotions, and will. The fallen mind has the same. We have to understand how God's mind works. God's intellect lives by God's principles, not man's, not the world's, and not the devil's, which is how the old you operated by. It is the knowledge, the input that it operates on.

Learn what God's principles are. *"If you continue in my Word, then you are my disciples, indeed, and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free."* The devil always promises freedom to people. The world promises freedom to people, and the flesh promises freedom. But apart from Jesus there is no freedom to anybody because you are a slave to a taskmaster who has come to steal, kill, and destroy.

Have you noticed how people do not like authority and rules? They do not like commandments. They do not want anybody telling them what, when, or how to do it. *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land your God is giving you."* (Exodus 20; 12) That is not just talking about parents, it is God's commandment dealing with authorities. The first authorities in your life are your parents. Your parents tell you what and what not to do. You needed somebody in your life to guide you, help you, and for you to learn how to live life.

Unfortunately, many people's parents were not in Christ Jesus so they learned life at a different level. They just learned how to deal with life out there in the world for better or for worse. But Jesus brings eternal life. He brings God's principles which will give you life. *"I have come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly,"* Jesus said. (John 10:10 NKJV)

Our new intellect does not lean to its own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5, 6) I am going to trust the Lord, trust His principles, and trust what He says. The Lord sets down principles. He says, *"Honor the Lord and you will be blessed. Honor His servants and He will cause you to prosper."* That is a principle. It is called the principle of honor.

Honor the Lord with the first fruits of your substance. Tithe, and He will cause your barns to be filled. We do not live in a strictly agricultural society anymore, so "barns" refers to your bank accounts.

When you do what God says He will do what He says. The smart person, the person with the mind of Christ, operates by what God says. To do that we have to trust Him. To do that we need to know that *“God is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of man that He will repent [change His mind]. Has He not said it, and will He not do it? Has He not promised and will He not fulfill?”* (Numbers 23:19)

We have to come to a point in our lives where we allow the mind of Christ to say, “I trust God even though I do not understand what He is saying or why He is saying it.” We have to have some absolutes in our life. We have to know that the Bible is not just a book. Jesus said. *“My words are spirit and they are life.”* They will bring life based on God’s principles.

Remember to take sure, steady, slow steps. Sure – based on God’s principles. Do not do anything in life not based on what God says, or you will fail. He said to rest on His Sabbath. Do not do your own work, your own pleasure, or your own labors, and you will be blessed. That is a sure promise. God said it. He said that if you refresh others, you will be refreshed. He does not say to run around trying to take care of yourself, look out for yourself (the world and the flesh says this). The Lord says, “Trust Me, lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge Me in all your ways, and I will direct your path.” He says if you lack wisdom ask and He will give it to you.

Those are faith principles and honor principles. There are also love principles: Do to others what you want done to you. Think about that when you are with other people. You will do to them what you would like done to you. However you start thinking what it is you want done to you. You begin to list them out. The Lord says, “Okay, take that list and do that for somebody else.”

With the mind of Christ you are not thinking about yourself. When you are thinking about yourself you are not thinking about God. The mind of Christ is always thinking about God. *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness all these [other] things [what we used to think about, like what we are going to eat, drink, wear, or what our work is going to be, whether it is coming in, whatever is going on, all the cares of the world] will be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:33 NKJV) As you think about the Lord, He takes care of everything that pertains

to you: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships.

The mind of Christ thinks about what God says and His principles. The emotions then come in. We are going to live by God's principles and intellect with our whole heart – everything that is within us. God does everything with all His heart. He is enthusiastic about it. He is excited about doing His principles. We have the mind of Christ so when we are thinking about God's principles, we are going to do that with all our heart. In other words, we are not divided.

### Spiritual Forces vs. Emotions

When you are pursuing the Lord with all your heart, with all that is within you (the first commandment – *“Love the Lord your God with all heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”*), (Deuteronomy 6:5) you are joyful. God will put a song in your heart. Being a Christian does not mean that all your emotions are bad.

The fruit of the spirit are spiritual forces. Your spirit is full of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, meekness, self-control. There is no emotion in a spiritual force. You are full of love, that is a fact. You are full of faith, joy, peace and everything that is good because God is in you. You are not full of trauma and you are not a schizophrenic, where your spirit is going with God and your mind is going with whatever. Your spirit and your mind are in sync. They are one.

The mind of Christ is in sync with your spirit. Therefore, your mind and your emotions are full of love, joy, peace, and compassion. The good, God-emotions are in your life. *“Let the peace of Christ rule [and reign] in your heart [and mind].”* (Colossians 3:15)

The perverted emotions go toward depression, anxiety, worry, fear, and bitterness. They can be hostile and violent because you do not get your own way. The mind of Christ says, “Settle down, the Lord reigns.”

## Our Will vs. God's Will

Many people miss these things because they are not receiving them. How is it that somebody can know about something for a long period of time and not do it? The will.

What is the will in the mind of Christ? It is to live by God's principles and emotion with your whole heart (peace, joy, and enthusiasm). The commandments of God are not grievous to somebody who loves God and loves doing what He says. (1<sup>st</sup> John 5:3) They are only grievous to somebody who does not love God and does not want to do what He says.

If you are bitter and unforgiving toward one person, you are going to hell. I do not care if you call yourself a Christian. If you do not receive the love of God to forgive others, the Father in heaven will not forgive you. Do not be deceived about this. Jesus did not hang on the cross and die for everybody without cause and reason.

How would it be if Jesus forgave everybody except you? You would not be in Paradise, you would be going to hell.

The will of God remains the will of God. There are two ways to do things for a Christian: God's way and God's way. You have no choice on anything else because anything else is absolutely a deception. People say, "Well, I have a free will." No, you do not anymore. You gave it up freely the day you said, "Jesus Christ, you are my Lord." When you said that, you gave up all your rights thereof to God, and you received from the Lord all His rights and blessings.

*"For the kingdom of God is... righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 14:17) We live our life with peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, doing God's principles, and doing God's purpose for good which is His will. The only one that can do good is God. The only one who knows what is good is God. But He made us good now, too. Get rid of the "poor, miserable, wretched sinner" stuff. God did not intend for us to think that way.

We do not have to fight, argue, or defend ourselves anymore. We do not have to press our own rights anymore. We are free in Christ

Jesus. We are free to enjoy God's presence and allow Him to occupy our time with gladness of heart. We are free to go and do good.

*"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good..."* (Acts 10:38) the will of God. Do God's principles and help the kingdom of God advance in the earth by loving people and doing good. Care for people because Jesus is coming soon. Your life is all about relationships, reconciling the world to God, helping them to come to know the love of God in Christ Jesus. That is God's will and purpose for good.

### God Has a Purpose for Each Person

Signs of strength in the mind of Christ: *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1:21) is a principle. That is what the intellect of God knows. We are only here to live for Christ. That is why we are on this earth. We are not here for any other purpose. It may take on different forms because we are all raised in different backgrounds and cultures, we have different educations, but our whole life is about Christ. The purpose that God has for each person's life He develops and shapes.

Have you gone through some nasty stuff in your life? It is intended to be part of your testimony to the glory of God. You will be able to help others that have gone through similar things. Paul basically said in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1, "I went through all these things for your sake so that I could help you."

All the things that I have gone through spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, or in relationship has been about helping you to go through those things. It was not that I learned something from a book outside of the Bible. It means I lived it. I went through it so I could help others go through it.

People say, "Well, you have not ever drunk alcohol," and I say, "That is right. I do not have to drink to know what an alcoholic goes through." It is all about pride. It is about self and the futility of thinking that goes to something other than the Lord of the universe for help, solace, or it is for escape. Drinking never helped anybody. *"Beer is a brawler,"* the Word of God says, and *"Wine is a mocker;"* it will come back and bite you. It ruins your family, ruins your life, ruins

your liver, and your body breaks down. How many people have lost jobs because of drugs and alcohol? It is stupid, futile, empty thinking which has no blessing and no reward.

If you cannot remember what you did the night before, what good was it? The mind of Christ purposes to do the will and pleasure of the Father. In other words, I want to find out what is the pleasure of God. I want to find out what He wants. What will be a blessing to my Father in heaven? I want to bring glory to Him because that is why I am on the earth. I am passionate about this.

The problem with many people is that they have no passion. The Lord told me years ago, "Son, do not ever lose the passion for the compassion." Do not let life, people, circumstances or situations harden you. We are so loved by our Father in heaven that we love loving people. That is a principle of God. God loves me with an everlasting love that never fades away or changes. The mind of Christ, God's intellect in me, says, "*I know whom I have believed and I am [fully] persuaded [and convinced] that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him...*" (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:12 NKJV) I know that my Father loves me with an everlasting love that never fades away or changes. I know that He will never leave me or forsake me; therefore I can boldly say, "The Lord is my helper. I will not fear what people do to me" or whatever happens because I know my Father, and my Father knows me. That is the intellect of God.

### It Has to Happen

It is knowing that every time I speak the name of Jesus heaven and earth starts to move. Devils are trembling, leaving, scattering, and running for the exits. Everything of God is coming when we pray in the name of Jesus. I simply speak the name of Jesus, and I know it will happen because the Lord says, "Whatever you ask in my name I will do. Even greater things than these you will do because I am with you and I will do it."

God's intellect in you, the mind of Christ, says "I know it." It has to happen. I know every time I honor God with my giving that God is saying to every thief out there, "Back off that person. You cannot touch anything that pertains to his or her life spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, or in relationships." (Malachi 3)

Here is another principle – *“I am the Lord who does not change.”* (Malachi 3:6) The mind of Christ knows God is not changing His mind. *“Has He not said it, will He not do it?”* (Numbers 23:19) It has to happen. Whatever the Lord says has to happen. I know that when I am faithful to acknowledge my sin to God, He is faithful and just to forgive me and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

I know this because He said it, and I trust Him. God said it, I believe it, that settles it, it is over, and done. It is settled in the heavens, it is settled in the earth, it is settled in my heart, and it is settled in my mind. It does not matter what anybody else says. It does not matter whatever the world says. I know whom I have believed. It is written!

I search the Scriptures to find what God says so I can put that into my mind. The mind of Christ hungers and thirsts for the things of God. It wants the things of God, and it is passionate about it.

At 12 years old, Jesus was in the temple asking of the teachers of His day. It was His heart. When His mother came to get Him, He said, *“Do not you know I must be about my Father’s business?”* (Luke 2:49) The mind of Christ says all that matters is what the Lord thinks. It does not matter what I think about myself, it does not matter what anybody else thinks about me.

### Spirit, Mind, & Body Are Connected

Have you ever belittled yourself or condemned yourself? *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17)

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus.”* (Romans 8:1)

If you condemn yourself, you are demeaning the work of God that He began in you. If somebody blamed you all your life, that is not you. People demean, they belittle, they trash people, and who are they?

I have had the privilege to look at people “up front and personal” through good times and hard times. What is it all about? It is about Jesus. Who do you think you are, Mr. Superstar, that you tear down

others, judge them, belittle them, and demean them because you are so insecure (and a disappointment to yourself) that you have to bring everybody else down with you?

My passion is to destroy the work of the devil. The devil tries to blind the minds of the people lest they receive the glorious light of the gospel and be set free. The mind is the critical zone. Yes, the Lord heals the sick, but much sickness is related to what people are thinking. The spirit, mind, and body are all connected. What affects one part is going to affect the others. Jesus said, "Which is it easier to say, 'Your sins be forgiven' or 'Take up your bed and walk'?" He was linking physical needs with a spiritual issue. Many is the time that people's thinking has caused their physical problems.

Bitterness and unforgiveness are sure fire causes of cancer, arthritis, and heart problems. Many skin related issues are symptoms of worry and fear. Stress causes heart issues which can kill you. There is more stress in America than anywhere else on the face of the earth because of our different way of thinking. The Bible is an Eastern book with a different mentality and a different culture. America is "Strive to get ahead, prove yourself, and show yourself worthy."

Were you demeaned because you did not have good grades and you thought you were dumb? Einstein failed in the first grade because they thought he could not learn. They probably thought he had Attention Deficit Disorder. Nowadays everybody seems to have it, but I say it is because nobody has gotten their attention. I told my kids, "I am going to get your attention, and you are going to pay attention to me." I learned that from the Lord. He says, "You pay attention to Me and My Word and do not turn from the left or to the right because there is no blessing on the left or the right. The only blessing is doing what I say." Obedience and submission are where the blessing is.

Authority issues are setting up the final stage for the anti-Christ to come. There have been many anti-Christ spirits over the years, but *the* anti-Christ is coming, he is the counterfeit of the King of kings and the Lord of lords who is also coming.

### With All Your Heart

The people with the mind of Christ do everything with all their hearts to the glory of God in Jesus' name. *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."*

(Colossians 3:23) This is passion. This is how God's emotion and intellect are. This is the will of God that we are this way. When you passionately start loving people the way God loves people, and start preferring others more important, you will never be the same.

We live by God's principles with our whole heart, with peace and joy – enthusiastically, passionately, and we purpose to live (for good) for God, to His glory. That is God's will.

When it all comes together, we have God's intellect, mind, emotions, and will in sync (as one) and nothing in hell can prevent God's best from coming to us. Healing will flow, just like that. What you speak on earth God honors in heaven. What two or three agree is touching on this earth, God is agreeing on in heaven (Matthew 18), just like that. Good things are coming. The will of God is that everywhere we go we bring heaven to people.

Romans chapter 8:3: *"For what the law was powerless to do [The law of God cannot save us because nobody can keep the law of God, and the fact is that nobody wants to keep the law of God apart from Jesus] in that it was weakened by the flesh [the old us]..." God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man, to be a sin offering."* Jesus who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21)

How can we as children of God run around being poor, miserable, wretched sinners anymore when God says that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus? We are holy, without blame, without spot, without blemish because of the blood of Jesus. He took all our sin on Himself. We should be dead, but we are alive because He died for us. He took our place. That is the good news.

Many people do not realize that apart from Jesus, they will be dead. They are dead. They are walking zombies. They have no life. Jesus says, *"I have come that you might have life,"* meaning that you did not have one, but now *"I have come to give you one."* The life of God

forever. The life of goodness, happiness, joy, and peace forever more. That is good news. All the things that the curse brought - sickness, poverty, disease, death, all the chaos, wars, and commotion in the earth - came because man fell away from God and lost His image.

Jesus took our image and gave us God's image. I will boast in the Lord all day long. I will talk about Him. I will give Him praise. I used to talk about me, but now I talk about Jesus.

### A Better Plan, A New Plan

*"And so He condemned sin in the flesh."* Sin was condemned; we were not, we were separated from God, but He gave us life. He condemned the sin that was in us. Unbelievers cannot do anything but sin, and you cannot ask them to change their ways. They cannot absolutely change their ways apart from Jesus Christ because their nature is separated from God. They are not looking to God, they are not believing God, they do not care what He says, and they do not want anything to do with Him. They are doing their own thing. The Lord says, "I have got a better plan here for you. I have the plan I had at the beginning which you never knew about because you were not there, but before the foundation of the world, I called you and I chose you, and I knew you before you were fashioned in your mother's womb."

God has a plan for your life, but it is not your plans, so quit trying to figure it out. It is His plan, and it will be revealed to you in that very hour in that very time. The steps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord. Though they stumble they will not be utterly cast down. That means that God knows your beginning from your end. He has it plotted out. He has the path already put out there. All you have to do is live life in Christ Jesus and God will unfold things at just that very hour, at that very time, to put it together the way it is supposed to be.

The old mind you used to have knows nothing about what is going to happen in the next two minutes. But the Spirit of God knows. I have shared events before they happened, or have shared things about folks that I had no knowledge of. I am not psychic, it is spiritual. The Holy Ghost reveals the innermost thoughts of God which God wants to reveal to us and through us. If the old mind is working, you are not

going to hear anything from God because you are leaning to your own understanding. Under – standing = low life.

When you have the mind of Christ why are you trying to figure things out? Understand this, in your former life, before Christ, did it work? Why would you want to go back to it? People have violated their own principles. If you violate health principles, you will get sick. If you violate financial principles, you will get sick. If you violate relationship principles, you will get sick. You have to quit violating principles.

People ask, “Why is all this happening to me?” I can show you in five minutes. First, all I have to do is listen to what you are saying and I can tell what is wrong with you.

*“And so He condemned sin in the flesh in order that the righteous [the God stuff] requirements of the law...”* The law of God is good, perfect, and eternal but it could not save you because you could not keep it. But Jesus came and kept the law. It says, *“Do not let one jot or tittle [punctuation points in Hebrew] depart from the law of God.”* Jesus said, *“Do not think I have come to do away with it, I have come to fulfill it.”* Not one jot or tittle of the law is going to depart before He comes back. There will not be any need for the preaching of the gospel, the good news, when Jesus returns. Everyone who has received the Lord goes to life, and everyone who has chosen not to receive the Lord is separated from Him forever. The Lord has bailed us out and done the Savior thing, but if you do not enter into it and you do not receive it, you will perish.

It is not God’s will or desire that any should perish. He says, *“The righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us who do not live according to the flesh.”* (Romans 8:4) The new mind of Christ lives according to God’s nature, according to the spirit.

*“Those who live according to the flesh [sinful nature] have their minds set on what the flesh desires (death). But those who live in accordance with the spirit have their minds set on what the spirit desires.”* (Romans 8:5) This is referring to my spirit by the Holy Spirit. God made our spirits alive to Him, so our spirit wants to do the will of God that the Holy Spirit has revealed. Our mind has to line up with our spirit. Have you found that your spirit wanted to do what God

says but your mind wanted you to do something else? You have to tell your mind to shut up and sit down. The person with the mind of Christ lives by God's principles with his whole heart, with peace, joy, enthusiastic, loving to do what God says because it is God's will and purpose to His glory. *"My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me,"* Jesus said. (John 4:34 KJV)

*"I come, O Lord, to do your will,"* (Hebrews 10:9) Jesus said. Are we any different than our Lord Jesus? No. This is where following Him comes in. You have to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him. What does it mean to take up your cross? It is the life that God has given you, and wherever that takes you to the glory of God. We are here to do the will of Him who sent us.

When people get ahold of that, God starts using them. He will use your entire life whether you come to Him when you are young or old. There is nothing wasted with God. All the things that you have done in your life are part of the testimony. Do not condemn yourself about the past, just realize that you are in the new now. *"Behold I do a new thing in you."*

### Flesh-Controlled or Spirit-Controlled

We are always controlled, but when we are controlled by the flesh these things will happen:

- Rebellion against God and His principles
- Witchcraft – which means you try to manipulate things to get your way
- Independence of God. Doing something without asking God first. You need to inquire of the Lord.
- Selfishness. Anytime it is about yourself you are not operating under the control of the Spirit of God and your new spirit. You are operating by your old flesh.

Choosing to do something outside of the will of God is a mistake. You do not have that right because you gave your life back to Jesus. You do not have a life of your own anymore. (Galatians 2:20) It is no longer you who lives, you were crucified with Christ. The life you now live you live by the faith of the Son of God. The faith of the Son of God is to do the will of God, not your own thing.

If Jesus is your Lord, He will tell you where to go, when to go, and who to go with.

When you want what you want, and it is not what God wants for you, you will not get it because it was not what He wanted you to have. I always praise God when He prevents me from getting something that He does not have for me. Because only what He has is good.

Many times over the years I have seen where the Lord actually delayed things to get His perfect will into place. I say, "Lord, override me in Jesus' name." And He will, He will help us.

- Dependence on the flesh. That is flesh-control.

You see much of this: Be your own person, do your own thing, you have a brain in your head, why do not you use it? Just because you have a brain does not mean you have the mind of Christ. Just because everybody agrees and thinks it is wonderful does not mean that God is in it. The mind of Christ wants and knows the will of God and if it does not have it, it will get it.

- Idolatry. Stubbornness is idolatry. It is the counterfeit.

You were stubborn about what you wanted and your opinion. But you need to be convicted about what God has. You need to be stubborn about God things, but the flesh is stubborn about what it wants. People just do what they want until they get what they want. That is idolatry. Idolatry is having other gods before the Lord.

When you are controlled by your new spirit and the Holy Spirit you have these qualities:

- Obedience to God
- Submission to God. Ladies, submission to your husbands as to the Lord. Men, love your wife as to the Lord
- Dependence on God
- Independence of the flesh and the world

Do you see any similarities between being flesh-controlled and spirit-controlled? The difference is that one is directed towards God. Controlled by the spirit is under the direction of the Spirit of God and leads to life. Being controlled by the flesh is under the control of the flesh and it leads to death.

This is why people have what they have. They set their will on the things of the flesh rather than the things of the spirit, and the devil is always out there contributing and encouraging them to be their own person – saying they do not need God, they do not need to rely on God, they can do it, God does not want them to be like Him, He wants them to flounder.

God wants you to enjoy your life, the life He gives you. There is no enjoyment in the life in the world, in the flesh, and the devil. Start thinking about eternity, and where are you going to be.

*“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.” (James 1:12)*

We are going to win this thing because Jesus won it. We are going to be with Him forever. You do not want to go out and do foolishness that will take that away. Why hurt somebody? What good will that do? It certainly is not God’s good.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
The Will Needs to be Trained  
Chapter Fourteen

The Clash of Wills

God made us with a will, and that will needs to be channeled in God's direction.

When my son was four years old, he came up to me and said, "Dad, I hate you." And I told him, "No you do not; you love me." Then he looked at me with that "deer in the headlights" look and nodded his head "yes." He was trying to gain power. I asked him if he understood why he had said that, and he shook his head, no. I then asked, "Is that a no or a yes?" "That was a no; I do not understand why I said that." I said, "You said that because I did not let you do what you wanted to do." It was a power play, a clash of the wills.

In all your life you are going to be clashing with somebody else's will. Authority problems start at two years old. Babies do not have them, because all they know is feed me, take care of me. You will have to succumb to their will at that point. They are born with original sin; they are born separated from God. They are born totally selfish and self-centered, and they are totally dependent on you at that point. Many parents say, "I am not going to cater to you," and they let their child die. But when children get a little older parents have to deal with the selfishness, or they will have a two year old tyrant, a dictator, running the house.

I told the children when they were little; "I am not here to be your friend; I am your dad and I am here on an assignment, an appointment from God to make sure that you are trained up in the ways of the Lord. We do not do your will around here, Dad does not do his will, it is not Mom's will, it is what is best for the family under God's will. That means that everybody is part of a team and we all have to pitch in and do our part to work together." A list of responsibilities was put on the board as soon as they were able to understand. They had their responsibilities, and were not allowed to go and play until they were done.

We have to think “God team.” We are either on the team as part of the family of God, or we are not. Make up your mind what it is, because you cannot have all the benefits of the family if you are not a part of the family. You cannot have the benefits of heaven if you are not part of heaven. The sooner you learn that the better.

### Keeping the Commandments of God?

The commandments of God are not difficult to a person who wants to do them. They are only grievous and a burden to somebody who does not want to do it.

*“What the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature...”* (The flesh nature). (Romans 8:3) People say the law of God is bad. Have you ever heard that you are not under the law? Galatians talks about that. Paul was talking to a people who were thinking that they were saved by keeping the law. Well, all your self-righteous deeds will never keep the law of God perfectly because if you break one commandment, you break them all. I know three commandments in particular that all of Christendom is not keeping right now:

1. *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”* (Matthew 22:37) (Deuteronomy 6)  
People have all kinds of idols (things that they want in their life) before God.
2. The second one is the Sabbath of the Lord. *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.”* (Exodus 20:8-10) If you do not do your own pleasure on the Sabbath day, and delight in Him He says, *“I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth.”* (Isaiah 58:14)  
This is a promise of blessing.
3. *“Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.”* (Exodus 20:12) That is not just talking about parents, that is talking about all authorities. God is the author of all authority. There is great rebellion and disrespect in the earth right now towards authority because people want to do what they want to do.

They do not want somebody telling them what to do or how to do it. Have you had a hard time on the job because you did not want to do what you were told? It is rampant in the earth. Paul tells Timothy in the last days that you will see these things happen.

*“There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — and having a form of godliness [he is talking to the church], but denying its power.”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1-5) This refers to the power of godliness. Have nothing to do with those who have a form of godliness but deny its power.

People are questioning whether they are saved or not because they still let their flesh override their life. They want Jesus, they want to be saved, but they do not want to submit to Jesus’ lordship. They do not want to do the commandments of God. They want to do what they want to do.

### Violating the Principles Brings Trouble

*“Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge the Lord in all your ways and He will direct the path.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6) Acknowledge the Lord in all your ways. If He is the Lord, then He calls the shots. He tells me what to do. I do not tell Him what to do. All the problems in marriages and families are over selfish, willful people wanting to do their own thing and the children are left to do their own thing. They are telling the parents what to do, the parents are trying to tell them what to do, but the parents are acting out what they used to do with their parents and so the curse goes on. In the last days it is going to get worse.

This is what you are seeing out there right now. When banking systems violate their own principles, there will be trouble and terrible times. Then we try to bail out folks that never should have gotten that loan to begin with because they did not qualify. There are qualifications for ministers that are given in the Word of God. There are qualifications for parents. Just because somebody has a child

does not qualify them to be a parent. Just because somebody decides they want to get married does not qualify them to be a spouse. If you take your selfishness into marriage, you are not going to be happily married for long.

It is important to receive what God has, but if we will not listen because we have already figured it out – that is the fool that Proverbs is talking about. They do not want to hear it, and they do not want to change. People say that a little child cannot understand that. What do you mean a little child cannot understand that? What you have is a lack of ability to understand what a little child can understand. When you say no to the child who is going over to the plant and is going to grab it for whatever reason, “no” is “no.” The child looks at you with one hand out towards the plant, looking right at you to see *What are you going to do about it*, and then proceeds to grab the plant. He is watching to see exactly what you will do. If you do nothing about this, you are going to breed a little hellion who will end up in jail or prison. Such children spend their lives being unprofitable to society. Today’s society is sick. They make it so comfortable for those folks in jail and prison. Many times they stay there or return repeatedly.

There is something wrong when the punishment and the discipline do not outweigh the pleasure of whatever they are doing. It is no deterrent, and they are going to go back.

Obedience is blessed and disobedience is cursed. A little child will understand that. Many is the time we would pull off of the road and minister the love of God to our children. *“Train up a child in the way of the Lord and when they get older they will not depart from it.”* (Proverbs 22:6)

The law of God, the Word of God, is holy, just, perfect, and eternal; it is God’s love. God has set boundaries and shown us what is right and what is wrong, what is blessed and what is cursed. We have to learn as a little child what is blessed and what is cursed, and what are the consequences of doing what is blessed and what is cursed.

Galatians 6:7 says God is not mocked. *“Whatever a person sows is what he will reap.”* This is what will come back. If you do not learn

obedience, you are not releasing anything but debt. If we are going to be blessed abundantly, the way Jesus says, we need to learn obedience.

Romans, chapter 8, says the law was powerless, it was weakened by the sinful, selfish nature that cannot do the will of God, and nobody could keep the law of God. *“There is none that doeth good, no not one. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23) We all need a Savior to save us from ourselves. We need God to save us from our selfish nature which is separated from God. It does not want God, is not interested in God, hates authority, and does not want anybody telling it what to do. It says, “I am going to do it my way.” Proverbs calls this person a fool. Ecclesiastes says wisdom laughs at people when they experience calamity because they are doing things their way and not God’s way.

#### Made the Righteousness of God in Christ

The wise person is going to seek out God’s way and then do what God says. It says that in spite of this God sent His own son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21)

He took my separation from God onto Himself and gave me His right standing with God. Righteousness. And so, He condemned sin in sinful man. He took away the sin. In order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us.

In Christ Jesus, I now have the ability to keep the law of God perfectly. The standard has been raised. This Jesus is my savior stuff is wonderful, but note, He does not say that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is your savior, you will be saved. He says that if you confess with your mouth Jesus Christ is Lord, you will be saved. This is an awakening time.

*“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”* (Romans 10:17).

Jesus was in the temple at the age of 12 and said to his mother who was looking everywhere for Him, “Do not you know I must be about

my Father's business?" He was not talking about Joseph, He was talking about His heavenly Father. He was a child but knew the most important thing in His life was to submit Himself to the will of His Father in heaven and do what His Father in heaven says.

This is the way I was raised. This is the way I was groomed. As a child, I was taught to obey God, to honor Him and love Him with all my heart, mind, and soul, and then to love people like Christ loves me. You can train a little child, and they will get it, but you have to be consistent with them if you want to see the blessing. You will drive out the bad and bring in the good and the reward. God rewards us, He blesses us every day. There is not a promise of God (if you do it) that you will not receive the blessing. There is not a promise of God that if you do do it you will receive the blessing. There is a blessing on every promise.

When my children were little and kicking up with each other I told them, "I do not know who you are," and they look at me like *Oh, what do you mean? You are our dad.* I said, "My children do not act like this." I was bringing into their understanding realm that they are God's children, they are my children, and I am bringing them up God's way, and they will do it God's way so they can see the blessing of the Lord.

Diana and I would always tell them, "If you do something wrong and you end up in jail, do not expect us to come down there and bail you out. We're not doing it. You are going to be responsible for the consequences of your life and your decisions." It is these bailouts that are not allowing the lessons to happen. We have to learn to be responsible for our lives, our word, and our actions.

### Do the Will of God to His Glory

This was Jesus' attitude: "*Teach me to do your will.*" (Psalm 143:10) Paul, talking by the spirit, said "*Understand what the will of the Lord is.*" (Ephesians 5:17) "*The whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.*" (Habakkuk 2:14) The will needs to be trained. "*Offer your body as a living sacrifice to God which is your reasonable service.*" (Romans 12:1)

We have the mind of Christ. We have the intellect of Christ in order to live by God's principles. The emotion of God is to do it with all my heart. I live by God's principles with peace, joy, and enthusiasm. The will of God is that I am here, and I purpose my life for good to the glory of God. I am going to do the will of God to the glory of God through all I do and say and think. I am going to do the will of God to the glory of God. That is my whole life's purpose. I love the world the way Christ loves the world, and I keep God's commandments. I am here ready for action to share Jesus with whomever, to help folks in their times of need. I am here to do what the Holy Spirit directs me to do. I have the power of God like Jesus, who went around anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil for God was with him. (Acts 10:38)

The only right you have is to do the will of Him who saved you. If you are saved, then you need to act like it. (1<sup>st</sup> John 3) *"Faith without works is dead."* (James 2:17 & 3) It says if you willfully, knowingly, continue to go against what God says, you are not a child of God, you are a child of the devil.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:1-6 it says that Satan blinds the mind of those who are perishing. He hides the gospel (salvation) from them. But understand, he also hides the abundant life from many of God's people because they have not renewed their minds. (Romans 12:2) *"Be not conformed to the world, but be transformed through the renewing of your mind that you might know what is the good and pleasing acceptable will of God."* There is no excuse for not knowing the good and pleasing acceptable will of God for you in your life. There is no excuse.

America is blessed. We have more than one Bible. However, it does no good if we do not read it and then do it. The blessing is in the doing. People do not even understand what the Ten Commandments are. If you are doing what God says, you are not under the law. The three functions of the law of God are: 1) to show us our sin 2) to drive us to the cross (it brings condemnation) 3) to show us what to do and how to do it. The first tablet shows how to love God, the second shows how to love your neighbor as yourself. It is one thing to tell somebody to do something and it is another thing to show them how. Then it is all about the will.

Have you heard this expression: *The road to hell is paved with good intentions?* That is what Jesus is talking about in Matthew, chapter 7. Many profess that they love Him and they are doing all these things in His name. But He says, *“Depart from me, you worker of iniquity.”* (Matthew 7:23) They are doing what they want to do rather than what God wants them to do, all in the name of the Lord.

To show partiality in your love is a sin. God does not show partiality. He loves everybody the same. It is easier to love people that love you, but while we were yet enemies of God, Christ died for us, the godly for the ungodly. Therefore, loving somebody that we do not get along with is a true act of the cross. *“Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.”* (Luke 23:34)

### Reverent Submission

During the days of Jesus' life on earth He offered up prayers and petition with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. (Hebrews 5:7) Submission is an ugly word nowadays. In fact, it has been made a perverted word. Hebrews refers to Gethsemane there. *“Father, if this cup can pass from me I will not have a problem with it, but nevertheless, your will be done.”* (Matthew 26:39 – paraphrased) Not my will, your will be done. It says that He was heard because of his reverent submission.

A person who is obedient to God and submitted to God receives the abundant life that Jesus has. They are blessed going in, they are blessed going out, they are blessed in the city, and they are blessed in the country. Everywhere they go, the Lord's blessing is on their life. Even when they are persecuted or pushed down, the glory of God is with them. He somehow turns evil around to good in every aspect of their life because they obey the Lord. Because they are submitted to God's will. Because they know, *I am here to bring glory to God.*

If you are thinking about yourself, you are in the flesh, you are not in the Spirit of God. Jesus never thought about His own life, and He tells us to do the same. He says, *“Take no thought for your life. What you are going to eat, drink, wear,”* (Matthew 6:25) whatever you

are going to do with your life. He says not to even take a thought about tomorrow. Today, be in the spirit, in the moment, with God about God's purpose.

Jesus was heard because of his reverent submission. Although He was a son (the son of God), He learned obedience. You do not have to teach a child to do wrong, but you do have to teach them to do right. They were born into a fleshly carnal world. They had death in them, the Word says, and that is why we must be born again so that God's life comes in us.

Without God we have nothing. You can go around this world demanding your rights and have your little placards and signs, marching and crusading. You can do all you want and you have nothing. If God is not for you, then everybody is against you.

The Lord Jesus will work the works of God. We are possessed with the Spirit of the Living God. When you come to understand that, you cannot serve two masters. You either serve the Lord Jesus, or you serve the devil. Jesus says it is one or the other. Your father is either the Lord or it is the devil. Jesus saved us from the devil and gave us a new life, a God-life.

*"...And although he was a son He learned obedience from what He suffered, and once made perfect He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him and was designated by God to be a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn."*  
(Hebrews 5:8-11)

The will needs to be trained, it needs to be broken. We live by faith, hope, and love, not by sight. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:1-10) "Sight" is the senses, the circumstances, the worldly standards, man's intellect, emotion, and demonic principles. But we walk and live by faith, hope and love, which are God's principles.

*"Faith without works is dead."* (James 2:20) In other words, there will be fruit of a changed life. If there is not fruit of a changed life, then maybe you are not changed because God in us is not going to do the

bidding of the devil. God in us is not going to act like hell. God in us is not going to be unbelieving, fearful, worried, and stressed out.

We really need to get ahold of the fact that *God is in us*. The Lord is in you. The hope of glory. In other words, Jesus fulfilled the law in our behalf and now as Romans 8:4 says, I am now able to fulfill the law of God in Christ Jesus.

It is not God out there someplace, somewhere, sometime, it is God in me, the hope of glory. Many folks will say that is blasphemy, but it is what the Word of God says. It is what Jesus says. He was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ. We are in right standing with God through Jesus Christ. We are not out there alone and forsaken and poor, miserable, wretched sinners anymore. I come to do the will of God. This concept is certainly not preached a lot.

Take a good look at what 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:1 says and let's cut the excuses. *"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin."* Jesus got rid of the sin nature. We were completely separated from God, but when we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we came alive to God and God came alive to us. He is in us now.

But our mind is where the will is. Satan wants to blind it because that will is set to do the will of either God, the Lord Jesus, or the devil. But nobody says the devil. The devil does not want people to be deceived like that about him. He wants them to think that they are in control, that they have their own life. It is just like the scorners putting the fool in front of him. The devil does not want to tell the people that he is calling the shots behind the scenes. Every time you are being selfish and self-centered, you are out of the will of God and you are opposing God. That was the devil's sin. That is how this mess all came about. He set his will against God's will which is rebellion (it is as the sin of witchcraft). Stubbornness is as the sin of idolatry.

### You Can Give Up Your Salvation

*"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires."* (Romans 8:5) This is separation from God. Every time you disobey God's commandments and go against His principles you are saying, "To hell with God. I am separated from

Him and I am going to do whatever I want to do. I am not under authority.” That is a spirit of antinomianism which means anti-law. It has been around since the fall of man. Anti-authority, anti-Christ. It opposes God, like every time you say that you are going to touch that plant when God says do not touch that plant (and you are looking at God saying, “What are you going to do to me?” or “What are you going to do about it?”).

Have you heard this one: if God does not want me doing this, He can strike me down right now. Understand, it will not be God striking you down. You stepped out of the blessing of God. It will be the devil striking you down. The thief will come and steal, kill, and destroy everything you have including your life and your salvation. That “Once saved always saved” doctrine is not scriptural. I can give you many scriptures to blow that out.

No devil can take away your salvation, but you can give it up if you willfully choose to do so. You have to be out of your mind to do it. People want to live like hell. They want to be saved yet do what they want to do and still be okay, thinking God’s mercy endures forever. It is called cheap grace. Hebrews, chapters 6 and 10, will show you that you can lose your salvation.

I am teaching you how to have the abundant life in Christ Jesus with your salvation. But if you will to go the other way, you can go the other way. It says in Hebrews 10:26 that if you willfully continue to practice sin after having knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sin for you.

Why would anybody who has Jesus Christ as Lord Want to willfully, knowingly, go against God? You are trampling underfoot the blood of Jesus and spitting on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Everything that sanctified you and declares you holy is working in you making you holy. If you love the Lord Jesus, why would you want to go out and willfully, knowingly oppose Him?

I was always taught to know which side the bread is buttered on. Know where your blessing is. Be careful how you live. Jesus has often said, “Be not deceived.” All the apostles taught that. The prophets from the beginning of time taught that. Be careful what you

hear. If it is not faith, hope, and love in God drawing you closer to Him, then forget it. Why is it that people can have the truth of God taught to them, but because they did not like the way the minister was ministering, or the way he talked, or they had an attitude against authority, they could not receive the truth? There is something wrong with such people and something wrong with their will because truth is truth, even if a donkey tells it to you. Balaam, a great man of God, needed a donkey to tell him. The donkey had more sense than he had.

What makes you think that you can willfully, knowingly, oppose what God says? I do not care if you like me or like what I share. Look at the track record of my life. Follow me as I follow Christ. You can care whatever you want about me, but follow the truth. What does God say? Check it out. If it is not God, forget it. If it is what He says, you had better be doing it, and quickly.

*“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh.” (Romans 8:5-6) It is not on God. “But those who live according to the spirit, the things of the spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”*

#### Spirit-Controlled Mind vs. Sinful Mind

If you are going to have the abundant life of Christ, you have to be controlled by the Spirit of God. God says the Spirit-controlled life is the blessed life. There is safety, protection, blessing, and loving care in the Spirit-controlled life. God will never do you wrong. He will never tell you to do something that will hurt you. If you have been hurt by something I have told you, it was not you being hurt, it was your carnal flesh. Because I speak the truth in love to people.

*“If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” (John 8:31-32)*

The old, selfish thinking is death. It says the mind of sinful man is death. (Romans 8:6) But the mind controlled by the spirit (your new spirit by the Holy Spirit) is life and peace. When you are doing what God says, you are going to have life and peace in your life. Blessing.

If people do not like you anymore, it is because you are not doing what they do anymore. You are not thinking like they think, and it is not you they are not liking, it is Jesus in you.

The sinful mind is hostile to God. It is an enemy of God. Jesus died for you while you were an enemy of God to save you, to make you a friend, family, and a servant of God. You serve Him just as a husband serves his wife, serves his children when they are at home, and serves others as God directs. *“He who would be great in the kingdom of God must become the servant of all,”* (Matthew 20:26) meaning we are about God’s business. We serve the Lord who then directs us in what to do, how to live, and what to do in this earth.

The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law. Anytime you see somebody that does not want to do God’s law, the Word says to get away from them. They call themselves Christians, but they are not of God. They do not want to do what He says.

Jesus said, “Five will be in a family, three against two, two against three for my namesake” because three want to go with God and two do not. They are not equally yoked. They are not walking together. They can never experience the blessing of God until all five come into the kingdom. So people say, “I will just compromise the Lord Jesus to make peace in the house.” If you do that, all hell is going to break loose because you are letting go of the standard of God. You are loving father, mother, son, daughter, husband, or wife more than Christ.

On the other hand, if you hold the ground and do what God says to do, be stubborn for God, that will bring conviction on somebody’s life. When conviction comes on somebody, persecution comes to you because their flesh is not going down without a fight. You have to hold the ground because the glory of God is going to rest upon you, and He is going to shine through you, and it will bring conviction that will get stronger. Eventually people will hate what is in them that is causing them harm and turn to the Lord who will cause them good (if they do not faint and give up). Keep the light of God shining bright. Keep the love of God going. Keep the forgiveness of God going. Love never fails.

A sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law nor can it do so. Many receive Jesus as Savior, but they do not have Him as Lord. That is why in the last day He will say, "*Depart from Me, you worker of iniquity. I do not know who you are.*" (Matthew 7:23)

The churches are full of people that Jesus does not even know. That is a stark reality. They are confessors, but they are not obedient. They are not doers of the Word. Do not be a hearer only. A doer is the one who is blessed. (James 1:22-25)

God is working in us by His Holy Spirit, enabling us to fulfill the law of God and to do His will. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled by the Spirit of God. We receive that control freely and joyfully as we submit to the Lord. We will rejoice in this day and be glad. We will love to love and forgive, and do good in the earth.

The Lord's ways are not man's ways. But God's ways are our ways now, and we are learning what His ways are so we can do them. We are not controlled by the sinful nature, but by the spirit.

You may not have the Spirit of God, but if you do have the Spirit of God, then you will love to do His will. You will love to do His commandments. You will love to do things the way God says to do them.

If you are rebellious, independent, stiff-necked, or stubborn, you are being controlled by the flesh. Rebellion to God is witchcraft because you are trying to control others and get them to do what you want them to do. The people who are controlled by the wrong kind seek to control others to do their bidding. They are selfish and self-centered.

Independence from God and all authority is being controlled by the flesh. Selfishness is all of the devil and is not of God. Stubbornness, the sin of idolatry, is all flesh.

In contrast, being controlled by the Holy Spirit is obedience to God (we will do what He says), submission to God (we will submit to the will of the Lord), and dependence on God (independence of the flesh

and the world). When you flesh is saying to do something, and you know that is not what God wants you to do, you say, “No,” and flee just like Joseph did from Potiphar’s wife.

Hebrews 5:11 and following, *“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make clear because you no longer try to understand.”*

People are slow to learn because they do not want to learn, and they do not want to change. *“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food.”* (Hebrews 5:12) This is where the body of Christ is. There is no maturity because there is no obedience. There has to be obedience. There needs to be accountability, responsibility, and commitment, which is love. Take responsibility for the fact that God has given you a life, and now He says to work it out.

Philippians 2:12 – *“Work out your own salvation now.”* Carry it out. Focus, finish. We will go onto what the Lord has. Grow up and get about it. That is when the blessing starts to happen.

### Righteousness Teaching

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness (right standing with God, being an heir and a co-laborer), which is being mature.

One of the greatest sorrows in my life is knowing that some Christians have received the truth but they are living contrary to it. I cannot go in and hog tie them, gag them, and knock them in the head, put them in the trunk and carry them across the finish line. I cannot do it. They have to do it to themselves. Then I can snatch them out of the fire, or pull them from the edge of the cliff. Their whole life is in shambles because they violated God’s principles. When I come along, I will not say, “I told you so.” That will not do any good. We need to get them back on the rock, and then disciple them.

What will keep Humpty Dumpty off the wall? He has no business up there. Pride comes before the fall. If you think you can run your life better than God, have at it, the Lord says. But there will be a time when you need to be picked up off the ground as you are mutilated

and in pieces, having been torn by the lions, tigers, and bears that are out there in the world.

God has a better way and you do not have to experience any of that. When you look at your life, you can see where you took the wrong path for whatever reason.

You do not have to have a drug deliverance testimony, an alcohol deliverance testimony, and a messed-up family. You will see promotion all of your life if you do things God's way.

The Lord will be there, He will love you, forgive you, and get you back on the track if you should stray, but it is God's will that we not sin. (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:1) We have the ability in Christ not to go against God. We can say "yes" to God every time.

The flesh and the world will hate you because you stand up for God and do the right thing. See John, chapters 15 and 16. He says they will do all these things to you thinking they are doing God a service by dealing with you. However, God is for you, so who can be against you?

God can keep you from evil. He can protect you. He can defend you. Just let Him be who He loves to be.

THE GOD-MAN  
**MENTAL / EMOTIONAL**  
Testimonies and Review  
Chapter Fifteen

Man Speaking: *In my walk with the Lord, you pray and pray that He will bring you into a deeper relationship with Him, and this series has brought me on another level where I am more aware of His presence. I am praying more with my wife. Bible study has really helped us too and gotten us all excited. It is a progression of our spiritual growth.*

Woman Speaking: *God started telling me that He was going to grow me to a new level, so He put me through a review. He wanted to show me something and some things started going on and I said, Lord, what do I do? And He said, you know what to do. Oh, okay. Because my flesh was just going crazy. I sat down, fasted, and got that under control. Now what do I do? I ask and I hear, and know what to do. Oh, and so He started showing me, you have that in there, now start using it. I have the mind of Christ. Sometimes we just get into that place where we are growing and growing and He is moving us to more meat. It is in there, use it. That was His lesson for me.*

Woman Speaking: *First of all I want to thank the Lord for my salvation. He has been doing a lot of miraculous things in my life. When I first came to this ministry, I was brokenhearted, and now thanks to the Lord I am reading the Bible, I am teaching, I am in Bible studies, I am going to the senior homes, and I am very very blessed and I thank the Lord.*

Woman Speaking: *Well, the Lord has just been sorting me out. A lot of it has to do with these big decisions that we make in our lives that are coming at us. He is showing me what is obligation, what the motivation is for these things. Even going into the Word sometimes, we can always find the justification and maybe the reasoning to support what we are under the pressure of (that might not really be the Lord). He has been showing me that by praying in the spirit, by seeking godly counsel, by standing up to some of those pressures that are there that I will get what is of His Spirit. So that is where we*

*are going and it has not been the easy road. A lot of people do not like those decisions, but they are the right ones. There is peace, so I am learning to not move until there is peace.*

Woman Speaking: *About two years ago I was really sick and I came to church and was prayed for and got healed. When I got sick, my husband said, we have got to go to church. And so, we have just been blessed. When God does something, He takes care of everything. We have just been really blessed. Our family, our finances, and we never worry about anything because we know God is going to take care of us and we just put our trust in Him no matter what happens. I work at the courthouse which is a negative environment, and he works for the police department. Every day when I go to work and I am in the courtroom, I see a lot of ugly stuff and read about it. I pray for everybody when I am in court all the time because I know God is merciful and He loves us. And I work with a group of girls that are Christian too and we are always praying. We read our Bibles and we talk about the Lord, and so, I know He put me there for a reason.*

Man Speaking: *Before I started coming to church here I was very cynical because of what I see on a daily basis. When my wife became ill, we came to church and I saw a different side of it. And now staying in the mind of Christ we have peace and love. We pray for that every night and for our family. I remember when we came to church one time, you said, do you read Scripture? And I read a Scripture every time I go into the building every morning. Being in the mind of Christ all the time has turned my life around.*

Woman Speaking: *What I have been learning about the mind of Christ is just like a freshness again because when I got saved and you went over Romans 8, I always stood on that and it always gave me freedom and peace inside. That was my Scripture. Every time I hear it, it brings me back. We tend to get stale sometimes, stagnate, and it's just bringing me a freshness inside. It is tweaking my mind. It is in us, and we need to use it and that is what I have been learning. You know, just putting it to use and using it. I have been getting in the Word more by myself. I have devotion in the morning. That freedom inside is wonderful.*

We are God's ministers of reconciliation. We bring heaven to people. The mind of Christ is focused on the Spirit of Christ that is in us. When the mind and the Spirit is lined up we will see the Spirit of God really flow.

We need to become very sensitive to what the Spirit of God wants to do in us and through us. I know that when we are praying we are not sinning as much. *"Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation,"* meaning you do not have to go there into that temptation. If you are focused on spiritual things, and you are a spiritual person, you have Jesus in you...He is working in you.

When we are praying for someone to receive their salvation, we need to understand that Jesus has already saved them. What they need to do is receive that salvation. How will they hear except somebody tell them? So we need to tell folks that Jesus has already saved them, and He loves them. That God is for them, He is not against them, and they just need to receive that gift and give their life to Jesus. God will give everything of heaven to them and take away everything of the earth, like the pain, sorrow, suffering, sickness, poverty, death, and hell from them. That is a good exchange.

Who would not want that? Everyone wants peace and health and relationship blessings and good things going on to know they are loved and cared about. There is not anybody that does not want that.

When temptations come, I say, "Thank you, Lord, that you are my Lord and my Savior and that you died to take these things away from me that are not of you." He is my healer, my deliverer, my protector, my savior, my life, my provider. He has a name in the Word that covers all of those different things. I love this one: Jehovah Shalom (my peace).

We live in a troubled, terrible world out there where all kinds of stuff is going on. Negativity is flying right and left everywhere you go. The mind of Christ is not going to go there. If you are believing God for somebody, then you need to act and treat him as if he already was a Christian.

There is mental, emotional, physical, and financial healing. God does not just heal folks so they can be healthy. He wants their life. *“Were there not ten healed and only one comes back to give thanks to God?”* That is not good. Jesus said to the one guy, *“Go and sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you”* after he was healed. Things try to come back, and if you do not fill the house with God, then they have power. I tell people, “Do not be afraid about that, but do straighten it out. We can kick out 50 devils just as easy as three.” But the point is, there comes a time where you have got to say, “Forget it; this is God’s house, and I am not going to tolerate any nonsense here in Jesus’ name. I belong to God and God belongs to me and He is not a slum Lord. He has taken me out of the slum and the pit and put me up on the rock in the mansion on the hill with the King of kings and the Lord of Lords.”

The Lord fulfills our life. If you are looking anywhere else, you are going to have problems. The Lord in us responds to the words of spirit and life and flushes out the flesh. God is bringing us into an invincibility place in Christ Jesus.

It did not bother Jesus that all the folks rejected Him and left Him. It did not bother Him that they abused Him and beat Him, spit on Him and mocked Him. They did all kinds of horrendous things to the point of killing Him on the cross, and He was up there saying, “Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.” He was a bloody pulp, beaten beyond recognition as it says in the book of Isaiah. And yet, He was loving the folks and saying to John, “Here’s your mother, take her.” He was reuniting people and fixing things up right to the very end. Then He said, “It is finished” and all heaven opened up. The lepers were being cleansed, the cripples were walking, and the dead were coming out of the graves. How awesome. The ministry of Jesus is about bringing life. Even in Jesus’ death He was bringing life to everybody. Then the third day He rose from the dead. Even the grave was not going to hold Him down.

Get rid of the victim mentality. In Matthew chapter 10 Jesus said, “When you are persecuted, you should be rejoicing. Do not think it is you being persecuted, it is Me being persecuted. You might say, “Well, it feels like it is me being persecuted.” No, it is not. Feelings

will get you in trouble. Go by the Word. Let the mind of Christ and the Spirit of Christ in you dwell richly in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. The Lord Jesus is alive and well in us. We have the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, all in one.

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is working in us (Ephesians 3:20).