

## THE MIND OF CHRIST SERIES

### THE HEART OF MAN

*I Cor.2: 11-16 "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him"? But we have the mind of Christ."*

We are beginning a new series on the mind of Christ. The purpose of this series is to see how we can move into and tap into the mind of Christ that is God's promise to each one of us. If we have the mind of Christ we will understand all things. We will know all things. For here it says in verse 12, *that the Spirit has been given unto us that, we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.* There are other verses that we could use to show that God has given us all things freely in Christ.

God has given us the mind of Christ. But we need to know what the mind of Christ is, how it functions, how it operates that we could tap into the riches of the storehouse that God has for our lives. If we have the mind of Christ we would be able to know the answers, the solutions to every problem we face whether social or

physical. God would enable us to have the solution. A lack of solution is more a lack of revelation. If we have the revelation we have the solution. At least we know what the solution is and the mind of Christ to enable us to prosper in whatever God has called us to do or to be. Whether in the secular or in the spiritual if we have the mind of Christ we would have prosperity. We would be able to move into the fullness and succeed in that which God wants us to do.

What is the mind of Christ and how does the mind of Christ function? The first thing we have to do is to locate the mind of Christ in our life. We are spirit beings, we have a soul and we live in the body. The body has a brain; the brain is not the mind of God. Now notice in verse 16 that it talks about the mind of Christ. The mind of the Spirit relates to the mind of Christ. They are one and the same thing. The mind of the Spirit and the mind of Christ are the same.

## **Praying in the Spirit Releases the Mind of Christ**

But there is something else that Paul is saying in Romans 8: 26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.* He is saying that our soul, our intellect, our soul mind does not know what to pray. The Spirit who lives in us gives us the ability to intercede with groaning, with intercession and that is praying in the Spirit. Now we realize in that verse it talks about more than that. It talks about groaning in the Spirit. But it includes praying in the Spirit.

The Greek words *with groaning that cannot be uttered* also means sounds or words that our mind and our brain do not understand. Another translation put it as *a language that is incomprehensible and unintelligible to the mind.* That will point back to speaking in tongues. When we speak in tongues we are speaking the mind of God. The mind of Christ is being released when we pray in tongues. It is our spirit man bringing forth to God the intercession. See my mind may not know what to pray but my human spirit knows the mind of Christ and knows exactly what to pray. So when my spirit begins praying in tongues, it's the mind of Christ praying forth.

When a person speaks in tongues the Holy Spirit gives them the words to say. There is meaning in the words. There is knowledge and mystery in their words. But the words are not comprehended by the soul mind yet and so as the words come forth it's what I call the activity of the mind of Christ. You will appreciate praying in tongues even more when you understand that praying in tongues has to do with the mind of Christ.

Lets look at I Cor. again. Chapter 2 verse 10, it says, *but God has revealed them those things that are hidden from man. He has revealed them to us through His Spirit for the Spirit searches all things, yes, and the deep things of God.* Then over in I Cor.14: 2 *"For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understand him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."* So, when we are praying in tongues there are mysteries being uttered. What are those mysteries? The mind of Christ and the mind of the Spirit understand mysteries but our soul mind does not understand mysteries yet. In I Cor.14: 14-15 it says that the mind is unfruitful because it doesn't understand, but as you speak forth in tongues you begin to tap into the mind of Christ.

Now there is a whole lot there. We want to share a little bit at a time. For this morning having introduced the subject we want to see here the relationship between the mind of Christ and our heart. In Rom.8 again verse 27, isn't it interesting to know that he says *now he who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit is.* There is a relationship between the heart and the mind of the Spirit. In fact our heart is the part of our being that connects the mind of Christ with the mind of the soul.

Let says this microphone stand represents the mind of the Spirit. So this is the mind of the Spirit and the other microphone stand represents the mind of your soul or your understanding. What happens is that all the thoughts of your mind arrive from the central point that we call the heart. The heart is somehow connected to the mind of Christ. There is a connection between the mind of Christ and our heart. Our heart is the seat and the center of all our thought activities. Sometimes the Bible refers the word *heart* as the *spirit*. But the Bible oftentimes talks about what happens in the heart. The heart is both the seat of your will, the seat of your emotion and the seat of your intellect.

See there are 3 functions of the heart. The first 2 is that the heart is the seat of emotion, will and thought and the heart is a storehouse of good or evil. The third is that your heart is the part of you that determine belief or unbelief.

## **1. The Heart : the Seat of Emotion, Will and Thought**

The Bible refers the word *heart* not to our physical heart but to the seat of our emotion, our intellect and our will. It's so important because if you could affect the heart you could affect the way a person think. If you could affect the heart you could affect the emotion of the person. If you could get the heart of the person you could get the will of the person. So lets understand what heart is in the Bible as we progress a bit at a time. The heart is the center of our emotions, our intellect and our will.

The heart may be evil if a person is not born again. The Bible does talk about an evil heart. Let me give you some scriptures as we make statements like that. Lets turn to the book of Matt.15 and see what Jesus says. He is not just talking about a believer; He is talking here about the unbelievers especially. See how important the word *heart* is in the Bible. In Matt.15: 18 Jesus said, *"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart."* Every word you say contain emotion, contain your frame of reference and your thought life. It contains what you have chosen and willed to do. Everything that has come up from your life came from your heart whether you are born again or not born again. It comes from the heart of man. Jesus says those things, which proceed from the mouth, come from the heart and they defile the man. *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies.*

The whole list is included here. The heart produces and causes all the other thoughts. There are many things included here. But for our understanding lets have this background.

## The Two Parts of the Soul : Logic and Imagination

There are 2 main parts of your soul mind. One is your reasoning part, which is called your *dialogismos*, and it means *reasoning*. It is from the same Greek word where we get the word *logis* or the English word *logic*. The logical or analytical part of our mind is on the left side of our brain. That's the part of you that say 10 plus 10 = 20. If  $A+B=C$ , and  $D+B=C$ , then  $A=D$ . That's the part of our mind the *dialogismos*. All logical thoughts come from the heart. That's what Jesus said in Matt.15 the word evil thought is the word *dialogismos*.

Then in Luke 1:51 It says "*He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*" The word *imagination* is the word *dianoia* and that's the Greek word, which means a *vision*. The word *vision* talks about the imagination part of our mind. It is the part of the brain where we say a blue velvet coat, we could visualise it. It's the part of our mind that sees picture and apparently the Bible points the source of seeing vision is in your heart. Your heart is the source of all *dialogismos* and *dianoia*. Your heart has that building quality. You can see how important it is.

## 2. The Heart : the Storehouse of Good or Evil

There are still a few more scriptures that we got to bring together. In the gospel of Luke 6:45 "*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*"

The word *treasure* means a *storehouse*. Out of the storehouse of the heart the mouth speaks. A good heart, which has a tremendous storehouse of good treasure, will bring forth good. Evil will bring forth evil. That's another view the Bible is giving of the heart. The first is that the heart is a source. Now you see that the

heart is also a storehouse. There is something inside us called the heart that is both the source and the storehouse. What does the heart store? It doesn't store information because that relies on your mind, your soul. The heart functions as a different storehouse. It stores different things altogether.

For those of you who knows computer, the mind is like the RAM and the hard disk or a floppy disk. It function both to store information and RAM stand for random access memory and it's a part of the computer where memory keeps changing. So when you buy a computer, they will tell you how many RAM your computer has, which indicates the capacity of your computer to process so much information. That information is necessary. That information will translate it to the screen. The screen is your physical brain, a part of you that you see it with that process that's going on.

But there is another part in your computer that you cannot alter. Its called the ROM or read only memory. You cannot change the information; you can only use the information. If you remove the ROM everything does not function because the ROM of the computer tells your RAM how to access the hard ware. Your ROM tells the computer where all the files and the bytes are, where are the necessary information and how to process them. If you don't have the ROM in your computer it cannot function at all.

The ROM is like your heart where information are stored. At the same time everything that is to be done in a computer have to access the information that is available in the ROM. In computers today when you turn them on, they take the information from the ROM and put it into the REM so that they could access it faster. But there is that part call read only memory.

The ROM represents our heart. Every person born into this world is born with a clean heart. Every child is born with a clean heart, undefiled, pure ROM. Somehow although it's supposed to be read only memory, Satan has discovered a way to affect the ROM of mankind. So all through your life he tries to change this part. When you change this part and the information inside, it will affect your entire life.

## The Difference Between The Heart's Thinking and the Mind's Thinking

Let me illustrate the difference between the heart and the mind and how they function differently in thinking. The heart has mental process so does the mind have but they are different. You can have the same information given to two people. One loves flowers and the other loves plants. So lets say there are plants and flowers and the two of them visit the same green house. In the green house there are plants and flowers. They may both have the same I.Q. and brain capacity but when they enter into the green house the one who loves flowers will study the flowers and ask questions and learn everything he can about flowers. The one who loves plants will learn everything about plants. What caused the difference? It is the inclination of their hearts. One likes flowers and therefore he uses his mind to learn all the knowledge he can about the flowers. One loves plants and he learns everything he can about plants. They could both have the same mental capacity but something else is controlling them. Something else is causing their mind to look for the things that they want. The part of them that caused the slant and the inclination is their heart. The inclination of their heart determines how a person uses their mind.

Lets say that if you are a pastor most of the time when you visit people, your main concern is the spiritual growth of the people. That's your goal. You want people to grow to be like Christ. How you view a person is reflected also by the inclination of your heart.

Now lets say the robber looks at the people at the street. He is looking at whom to rob. Now the robber is using his mind to look for different things. As the robber sits in the street the robber will be looking for who is an easy victim. But when you send an evangelist to the street, the evangelist is also looking but he looks at who is open to the Lord. There are two people there in the streets and both looking around. One looks for lost souls, to see who are hungry for the Lord. You could tell it on their face. You could tell it by the way people go about. Perhaps in giving

out tracts you see the response. Some show greater interest than others. The evangelist finally targets at one person to share the love of God with him or her.

But the robber's purpose is different. He looks around and sees the easiest victim possible. Because of the different inclination of their hearts, the evangelist and the robber are both gathering different information from the same group of people. One is looking for open hearts to the Lord and the other is looking for opportunities to steal and rob. Their observation is different. One is observing the faces of people, their response and their word and their lives that are reflected in their faces. The thief is looking for anybody who is careless whose wallet or purse is sticking out. He is looking at different things.

The mind has the ability to shut up what your heart decides. Your heart controls your mind not your mind control your heart. If your heart is determined or slanted the wrong way, it controls the rest of your soul and body.

Let me give you an example using your faith level. You are growing in God and you want to believe God. Perhaps you want to buy an apartment and you look at all the situation and you feel it's just not possible. Then as you sit down and see how difficult it is, your mind starts operating and telling you, these are the reasons 1,2,3,4,5,6 why you can't afford to buy the apartment. Our mind has the ability to tell us what we instruct it to tell. It's just like when you go to a computer, what information you pull out from the computer depends on what information you want. So the mind is the storehouse of information but it is different storehouse from the heart. We are going to look at the heart's storehouse. The mind has the ability to pull out what your heart wants. So if you keep telling yourself you cannot afford it, then immediately your mind will give you 10 reasons why you cannot buy it - because of this, because of that. Your mind will tell you the reasons. But if there is another couple with the same financial resources look at the same situation but their heart is different. Their heart says it can be done and then their minds will begin to look for ways to make it materialize and get their apartment. That's why it's important for us to understand our heart.

### 3. The Heart : Source of Belief or Unbelief

Lets look at Heb.3: 10-11 *“Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, they always go astray in their heart.”* Now the problem with the Israelites was not just their mind, it was something in their heart. It says, *“they have not known my ways, so I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest.”*

It warns us in the Bible here that in verse 19 *“So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”* Verse 8 also says, *“Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”* Apparently we have some areas of belief and unbelief that involves the heart. The reason why the Israelites didn't cross over was because their heart was closed up.

Jesus says in Mk.11: 23-24 that you can have what you say if you do not doubt in your heart. He did not say if you do not doubt in your mind. It may surprise us to know that there are 2 types of doubt, the doubt in the heart and the doubt in the mind. The doubt in the mind you can overcome with God's Word, the doubt in the heart is disastrous. There is a doubt in the heart that will shake the very foundation of your life. So the heart is the source of our unbelieving.

Luke 24:25 Jesus said, *“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken.”* He says the problem with their believing is in their heart not in their mind. It's their heart that determines their ability to believe.

In the parable of the sewer, lets look at Mk 3: 5, *He looked around at them with anger being grieved by the hardness of their heart.* Notice that the hardness of the heart of the Pharisees caused them to be totally blinded to what Jesus what was saying. He did not just say *their mind*. He says *their hearts*. There is something about the heart that is inclining. If the heart is willing to learn then the mind will back the heart up. The mind will do everything the heart commands. The heart is in control of the

mind.

Lets look at Matt.13: 15 the heart, No.1 is the place where you are able to believe or disbelieve. Matt.13: 15 *“For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed. Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.”* Notice that because there is a hardening. The hearts of these people have grown dull and they don't understand. It did not say they didn't understand then their hearts hardened. No, it says their hearts hardened first and grown dull and therefore they didn't understand.

Understanding is the indirect result of the heart receiving. So the heart is the part of you that no.1 believe and no.2 receive. It receives from God. That's the quality of the heart.

One last scripture in Lk.8 which talks about the parable of the sower and the seeds. In verse 11 the parable is this. *The seed is the Word of God, those by the way side are the ones who hear then the devil comes and takes away the Word out of their hearts.* How come the devil can do that? They are supposed to be ROM - read only memory. The heart is like the ROM in a computer. You can remove the ROM by pulling out the hardware itself physically from the computer. But what about our hearts? You see the heart is linked up to the spirit realm and not to the mind. It is the heart that links up to the spirit realm. Satan is a spirit being and we are either yielding our heart to the Spirit of God or to the enemy. When we are born again our heart has been cleansed, washed up all ready for the Spirit of God to use. The devil will infiltrate the heart and try to cause your heart to not function the way it should and here the devil tries to steal the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. He did not want the Word to remain in the heart. He tries to steal it out.

What about good soil? Read further down verse 15, *but the ones that fell on good ground are those who having heard the Word with a noble and good heart keep it and bear fruit with patience.* The different type of heart causes the different type of ground. Notice in this parable all the different types of ground receive the same seed. All

the different type of ground has the same sower but all the different types of ground did not have the same results because the heart was different. You could enter a Spirit filled meeting conducted by the best evangelist in town and get nothing out of it because your heart was not right. Your heart was not receptive. So the mind of the Spirit and the heart of man are integrated and connected. There is supposed to be a connection there unless it is severed by the devil.

Having seen the area here, lets look further here at the process of thought.

We are not capable of original thoughts without God's influence. Nobody is capable of that without God's influence. What another person hear and how we ourselves hear will be limited by our experience, thoughts, images and pictures that we have. Going back to a very basic illustration. Lets say a brother had never tasted a *durian* and I had tasted a *durian*. (A *durian* is a large fruit with a thorny hard surface but has a tasty flesh.) I am trying to communicate to him what a *durian* is. How well I can communicate to him depends on what he had experienced up to now and his vocabulary up to now. Supposing our language differs, then there is another problem but if our language is the same then it depends on how much we heard and seen. Lets suppose he has never seen thorns in his life, when I say a *durian* is a thorny fruit he asks what are thorns, then I have to stop talking about *durian* and talk about thorns. What is a thorn? Something that is sharp like a needle. Then we have more problems. Can you see that our ability to communicate with one another depends on that person having some images already?

That's why a child who is growing up cannot understand some things an adult understand because the child's vocabulary, experience and images are limited. What happens is this, at first you have one or two images then from these 2 you begin to construct a third truth. So how we understand and what we convey is dependent upon the person's vocabulary, experience and images.

Lets say a child has never seen a frightening thing before. The child has been brought up in a Christian manner and has been trained and taught the angels are all

around us. We showed pictures and drawings of angels. The child is brought up to know that God's presence is everywhere, and the child will not be afraid of darkness. But the moment the child watches a frightening movie or frightful images then the child has learned that there are such things as frightening creatures. These images are impressed on his or her mind because the child may have watched that over the TV. Try leaving the child alone now, you will find that even though in the darkness there is nothing frightening but the child's imagination can run wild. So how we learn things is for example by accumulation of fact.

You do not teach child algebra until the child learns one, two, and three. See it's a step-by-step process. Even our educational system is based on that. You teach a child how to count 1234567 then you teach the child how to subtract and then how to add and finally you go to algebra,  $a+b=x$ ,  $b-y=z$ , etc. Then you try to conclude what is A and what is B. But the child must have the basics. He must learn how to count. I am talking about the learning process.

If you understand this you will know this fact. There is no such thing as something difficult or impossible. If the thing is difficult or impossible it's because you are like the child who has not learned 123. This teaching is to help you to get into the mind of Christ. There is no such thing that is hard, difficult or impossible. It is only hard, difficult or impossible to you in your context of your situation. Let me give you an example here. Lets say he doesn't know how to swim, to him when he sees other swimming it may look difficult. At first he thinks it's easy. Lets say he goes to the swimming pool. You say come on it's easy. So he goes in and it doesn't look as easy. Why isn't it easy? Because there are certain basic things that he has not learned yet. Perhaps he sees some people swimming up and down and it looks easy. Why is it not easy for him?

You see anything that is hard for you; to somebody else it's easy. What caused it, why is it that way? It's not because of your background. Don't blame your background. If you lack something in your background you can make up for it. Don't blame your parents; don't blame anybody because there is no such thing as impossible unless you see it as an impossible. There is no such thing as a difficulty unless you see it as something difficult and unless we approach life that way. You will never going to do anything.

Lets go back to swimming. Its easier if you break it up into steps. All the learning process is a matter of learning step by step. Even the most complicated task is achievable if we don't try to jump, if we try to walk in the Spirit, if we walk step by step. That's how our learning process comes. All original learning is not possible unless God comes into the picture.

### **Darkening of the Mind**

So I can imagine a human being is born into this world, the only thought process that are functioning at the moment is a clean heart, everything clean and you wanted a thought this is original. Now this is what happens, as you grow through life every time you sin and every time you are hurt and every time you store those hurts, sins, sad things in your heart, guilt comes in. All these things are stored inside. Unforgiveness, resentment, something starts affecting your mind. This is the truth we want to get across that it is not possible to function freely with our mind with a condemned heart. When a person is filled with guilt or resentment their minds start getting affected. Their brightness starts fading. Today it is a documented fact.

A recent article in the magazine the *Pediatrician* mentioned about a child research center in the U.S. that came out with a statement that children who are abused are mentally incapacitated. In other words no matter how intelligent they have been, children from abused homes have less I.Q. less mental ability. Not because of hereditary, somehow in the process of time their intelligence is affected. Why is it affected? Because there is anger and resentment stored in their heart, the process of thinking is affected.

Let say a child grows up angry and as the child grows up into adulthood, everything the child sees and interprets, he interprets from his anger now. He doesn't see the truth anymore. He sees a partial truth. He begins to see through the tinted glasses of the heart. If the glasses have been tinted yellow, he will always

wonder why everybody looks a bit yellowish. He will look for yellowness in people. You see sometimes people are very sensitive to certain things, not because of the truth but because of the partial truth they received. I am sure you have experienced it in your life where people think something of you that is not true. They may say, "Why are you angry with me?" You ask, "Was I angry with you?" Or, "Why are you doing this to me, was I doing this to you?" The question is how come these people can conclude and pick up all those things. It's the condition of the heart. As long as your heart is not conditioned right you can never perceive truth. All that you perceive is tinted and colored and becomes partial truth, something that is not there. You imagine it to be there because your heart imagines it. Remember this, your mind doesn't know the difference between what is imaginary and what is real. If he imagine strong enough he will think that is real.

You know how they train elephants? I was talking to one guy who knows how to train these animals and he knows a lot about animals. He asked me, "Do you know how to train elephants?" I said I don't know and I would like to know. How do they control those elephants who are such huge big fellows? One day I saw the elephant; the elephant was tied to a tiny little stick with a rope. He pointed to me and says do you know the elephant has the strength to pull that rope and why didn't the elephant pull it? How come he is trained to stay there? He said because when they were training that wild elephant, they took that elephant and tied it to a huge tree or some object where the elephant can never pull. So day in day out the elephant tried to escape and pull and pull until one day the will of the elephant is broken and it gives up trying. The elephant stops struggling and accepts the fact that he can never pull free. And then he says when the will of the elephant is broken, you can now take the same elephant and tie it to a tiny little stick and as long as it feels a little pressure, the elephant will not move. Even though physically it is capable of pulling it like peanuts and walking free, it will not because the mind of the elephant has been broken. The will has been broken and the elephant is fully convinced that it can never pull free from that rope.

Many times because we have been incapacitated in our imagination and we are convinced we can never do those things. Something happens to us. We accept it and we resign to the thought we are never able to do it. Our mental process has conquered us. The mind will not know the difference between what is imaginary and what is real.

Then where is our protection? The Word of God and a clean heart. You could mix with a crowd and think that somebody is going to kill you. Imagine it and you will start suspecting people. You will turn around every time wondering whether this man or that man is the killer. Why does the thief keep looking round, because he thinks police is waiting to catch him. There is something in his heart that tells him people are watching him. There is guilt in him. So every time a thief walks in he thinks somebody is following him because he thinks that is the day he is going to be caught. There is guilt in him. Every time he looks at people he will be wondering is this the guy, is that the one; so that's how paranoia affects the mind.

It is the heart that is affecting people's mind. To move into the mind of Christ we must first of all have whatever is inside our heart removed and done away with cleansing by the Blood of Jesus. O know that it sounds easier than it is but because we are receiving partial truth through our heart we can never really see the truth unless God's Spirit reveals it and shows us. Shines His divine light into us. It's not possible to see the truth until you see the man Jesus. He is the only comparison of all truth. Then you have the Spirit of truth to judge all other thoughts and processes.

Lets look at Heb.8 I pray that God will always enlarge our heart and mind to do things that we never do before. If you do not do something and you do not experience those things, it will be more because you lack the time rather than you cannot do it. Never accept the words *cannot, impossible* anymore.

In Heb.8: 10 *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them in their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."* We have talked about the renewal of the mind or the law in their mind. Now we are talking about writing them on their hearts and also in chapter 10:16 *"I will put my laws into their hearts and in their minds I will write them."* In verse 21 *"Having a high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts*

*sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."*

Having our hearts sprinkled from our conscience, cleansed, removed all those things that are in our hearts so that we will begin to look at people differently. When someone stands up and say you cannot do this, you cannot do that, the whole approach is the law. It's based on the person's experience. You can't hide. Every word you say, Jesus says proceed from your heart. If you have been experiencing that kind of thing, it will come out from you later. The only way to change the process is of course the Blood of Jesus cleansing your heart. But the other process is to let the light of Jesus shine into your heart and give a revelation.

We are only able to perceive the truth is by the thoughts, images and the experience that we have. Everything that we understand is a process of those thoughts that work together. The heart has those 3 functions of receiving, believing and linking to the spirit world. The heart is the source of intelligence, it is what a person is capable of. I personally believe that God has made all men with the capability to reach their fullness but their training in life has rendered them incapacitated in some areas.

Jn.1: 9 implies that every man born into this world has the intelligence, the gifts and the graces of God. In verse 9 *Jesus was the true light which gives light to every man who comes into the world.* When did this light come? This light comes to every person whose spirit is not lost yet. We know little children's spirits are not lost yet. So at some point in life the very ability to perceive and know starting in a baby came from God. As the baby persist in things slowly, as he knows sin, that perception becomes clouded and somewhere along the line it becomes totally dark and harder. So remember what we said, we are all not capable of original thought because we are all clouded by our experience. The only original thoughts that can arise must start with God first. God is the source of all our ability to exercise freedom in thought. He is the source and the treasure house.

Every human being born into this world is born with a tremendous capacity. Now if that function perfectly a person will be able to demonstrate the

fullness of God's ability in his or her life. But if a person's growth is based on sin and bad experiences, the person's mind and heart gets hardened. The moment the heart gets hardened, this is what happens. You start cutting off your perception of possibilities or truth. You start cutting off until you get one narrow glimpse of the world. It's like looking at the world from an ant's point of view. Your view of the world is like a frog's view under a coconut shell. That is not the way God wants us to be. That's a result of the hardening of the heart.

Intelligence is a gift freely received from God. The fact that today scientists are saying that the I.Q. of children from abused home are lower, tells you that I.Q. is changeable by environment and it is not only hereditary. So we believe that intelligence is a gift from God. You say O brother I am not interested in being intelligent. But intelligence is a gift from God. Jesus was intelligent and He has wisdom.

In Luke 2 we are talking about the mind of Christ. How would you like to have a mind where there is nothing difficult to you? Everything you do you can do it. Whether it is music, art, science or anything. That's the mind that we are trying to convey. That's the type of mind Christ has come to give to the believers. Tell me how can the believers be the head and not the tail unless the believers understand everything that the world knows through the mind of Christ. Suppose you have been making FFF in your report card but when you are born again you are suppose to make AAA. That's what God wants us to have. We may not all reach there instantly but we must understand the processes.

Lets look at Jesus. Lk 2: 40 *"And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."* You see the wisdom that was placed into Jesus life was from the Spirit and I believe Jesus was capable of learning and knowing everything. By the time He was 12 years old, looking at the mind of Christ in chapter 2: 46 *"Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."* That is Jesus when He was 12 years old.

I want you to notice 2 things here. Jesus asked the questions and He answered the questions. In verse 46 He asked questions. In verse 47 they were astonished at His understanding and answers. Those people were the doctors of the law. That was Jesus when He was 12 years old. His life was an example. This is the Master and Lord we are following. The capacity that He had astonished the people in His days.

Parents, you may not realize it but every time you sin against your children by causing them hurt emotionally in their soul, you are abusing their intelligence. You may say but I am not perfect, every body is not perfect. You should immediately pray together with them and ask the Blood of Jesus to take that dark seed in their heart that you have caused. It's easier to deal with kids than with adults.

Lets say you and your wife quarrel and you had a big fight. The whole house was in earthquake. The children cringed in the corner looking at both of you fighting. Fear has crept into the children. Finally after 5 broken chairs, you both slam the door and go to your room. Next day was a Sunday and you said lets forget it and pray it over. But you forget to remove that poison and that thorn that you have put into your kids. Now what is going to happen? One more slice of intelligence is cut off from your kids in their hearts. Then you go on and somehow life goes on and a crisis happens. The wife goes hysterical and frightening things happen and you forgot to pray for the kids. Another slice of intelligence is cut off. Imagine that kind of scenario happening for 15 years. By the time your child grows up and your child does not do well in studies, you say, you dumb-bell. Who made him a dumb-bell? This is the worst scenario.

Some of us have been through things like that; perhaps it was not caused voluntarily. Things happen, crisis happens, the sadness of the world of darkness and life without Christ has caused scar and wounds in your heart. Every time a scar and wound is afflicted in your heart, a part of your intelligence is affected. If you keep going that way, by the time you grow up there will be little intelligence left and people wonder why. If these things did not happen, if the world were God's world and things were more perfect, every human being would be a brilliant

human being reaching into the capacity of God. Sadly that is not so.

## **The Heart : the Source of Wisdom**

Knowing this as a fact, Jesus may or may not have the best kind of home. But one thing that Jesus kept and had was His spirit intact and His heart. Intelligence lies in His heart. When God increased Solomon's intelligence, do you know which part God dealt with? The heart and not the mind.

Today there are books out there in the secular world that tells you how to think. They are trying to train the soul how to think better, think rich and grow rich and all these things focusing on the soul, the wrong place. When Solomon's heart was touched this is the type of person he ended up becoming. Lets look at I Kings 4:29 *"And God gives Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men – than Ethan the Ezrahite and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.*

Notice in verse 29 what happened? God touched his heart and enlarged his heart. When your heart is hardening this is what happens. A part of your heart becomes incapable of doing what it should. We are talking about the heart the Bible talks about. Even the physical heart is the same. What do they talk about when they say the artery of your heart has been hardened? That means the arteries of your heart have not been able to function the way it should. There are blockages there. What is the hardening of your arteries? Not that your arteries turned to stone but the walls of the arteries are surrounded by fat and cholesterol that caused the flow of the blood to be restricted. So it cannot function in the way it should and so the heart is hardened and a part of your intelligence is affected. The mind of Christ in you is affected.

The mind of Christ flows with the heart of man. It flows through it.

When God wants to increase the intelligence of Solomon He increases the heart not the mind. You have enough brain cells to do more things that you could ever wonder. Even using 10% of your brain cells would make you a fantastic person. It's the heart area that gives you the capacity to deal with your mind. It is your heart that gives you the capacity to use your mind. There are many people who wish they could do more things than they should. If only I could read more, if only I could understand things more, if only I could remember things more. It's your heart that determines your mind. It's not just because you don't have enough brain cells, there are enough brain cells in you to invent a billion, billion things but it's the ability to use these brain cells and that comes from the heart.

When the heart of Solomon was enlarged, Solomon was no more just a king. In verse 32, he spoke 3000 proverbs and his songs were 1005. He spoke of true botany, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop. I mean who want to study trees, but his mind was of such capacity. Because of his heart he began to explore and look at things that he had never done before. Without God touching his heart he would never be able to do all these things. He reaches out into this realm that God enable him to. He spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, of fish. Think about that, there is a whole lot inside. Men of all nations, from all the nations of the earth have heard of his wisdom. They came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and that was due to the enlargement of his heart.

What is intelligence? Has anybody define that before? It's an ability to understand things and also to give a definite and clear explanation of things and also knowledge. Lets try another definition. Intelligence is the mental capacity to keep whatever we have learned and the understanding of what we have learned. Do you notice that most of the definitions of the word intelligence dealt with the mind? When we say a person is an intelligent man, sometimes what we mean is that he is a knowledgeable man. When you say a person is intelligent sometimes we mean that he is analytical or is successful and smart.

I believe there is a definition of intelligence in the Bible since we are studying the mind of Christ and tapping on the intelligence of Christ. When we say a person is intelligent, No1: we are saying that the person has the capacity to gather as many facts as possible, what I called largeness. Like facts that people will miss,

ignore. So it's an ability to encompass the wider the better and the more the better. So vastness of knowledge is a classification of the intelligence.

Another area that you classify is what I called the ability to project into the future, to foresee into the future. If a person knows everything but is always caught off guard, you wouldn't call that fellow intelligent. You would sort of project and be able to look with foresight. So foresight is another area.

The third area is the ability to look back. So intelligence is basically the ability to look forward, the ability to look backward and the ability to look around. Look at what Solomon did. He had vastness of knowledge, his heart was enlarged and he had the capacity to go into new things. I want to encourage the Christ mind in you. When Christ comes into your life, you will not be limited by what you were limited before in your old life. Old things have passed away and new things have come. Some of those things that all your life for 40 or 50 years that you have been told that you couldn't do and you can never do you must shed them. I am not talking about wrong areas. I am talking about areas of ability in Christ. Even though you may not be professional in those areas, you must conquer them. One area of conquest is moving further to tap on the mind of Christ. That is what I called largeness. In the area of largeness you increase by doing more things. Not just getting home from your office, doing your 8 hours job. Going home read the papers, watch TV and rest and do a few house chores and get ready for office again.

Life is an exploration. Jesus wants us to enjoy His creation, to understand Him more. Remember what we said earlier, now we are reaching a conclusion. See how important is our ability to comprehend God and comprehend all things is limited by our thoughts, images and experiences that we have. So if your present experiences are limited you cannot convey those things. Paul says in I Cor.2 that we compare spiritual things with spiritual things.

Look at the Lord Jesus Christ. How did the Lord Jesus convey truth to the farmer and to common people? He took a spiritual truth and He conveys it in a

language they understand. To the farmer He says that the kingdom of God is like a man sowing seeds. You see, He is using a natural illustration to compare spiritual truth. Jesus was a carpenter but He has knowledge of farming. Then to the fisherman He said come I will make you fisher of man. Now Jesus knows enough about fishing to compare it that way. Jesus is able to convey truth at the level of people's experience and from there bring them further.

So we need to have what I called an area of compassing. Compassing all area. Areas that you may never launched into before. You began to move into them. See God didn't make you to do one thing. You have one will but in that will God makes life interesting for you. There are many things that you do and everything that you do helps you. When God wanted to tell the truth to Isaiah He sends him to the potter's house. You see what has going to the potter's house to do with God's word and God's will? Because God has to convey a truth to Isaiah, so Isaiah has to go to the potter's house to look at the potter and understand all those things that are involved and then he comes back and he is able to understand God more. Our ability to understand and comprehend is limited by the pictures the images that we already have. The more images and pictures you have the more our capacity it is to understand others and to understand God.

That's why the Bible is our key source. Take time to fellowship and to read all that you can. It seems that a reader is also a grower. Another words if you read then you would be able to exchange experience and learn from the experience of others. I found that most leaders are also readers. If you have never develop a habit of reading, you will not be able to develop the mind of Christ in you. I am not talking about reading nonsense. I am talking about reading the good Christian books and writings. You have to make it a habit to develop the mind of Christ in your life, to develop the capacity.

There are things that I never do like drawing but in order to conquer it I purposely take a few minutes once a week to do a little bit of drawing and try to produce a little poster for my own office. I hate drawing but I force myself to draw just in order to tap on the mind of Christ and to enlarge on the mind of Christ. I don't want to limit the mind of Christ in my life and so there I was. My vision is to be able to produce a little picture of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane.

That's tough.

There are two parts of your mind, your brain. One part of your brain is the analytical part we develop that. The other part is the visual part. I learn more to observe details than I have ever been able to since I started on drawing. As I was drawing Christ's ears, for the first time I asked questions I never asked before. On a human being where does the ear start and how low or how high is the ear from the nose. You may not have noticed that where our ear starts is roughly where our nose starts. I never noticed that before.

You say that's not important in preaching the gospel. Hold it there because I begin to observe details, a part of my mind begin to open and to realize, just like a little child. Where before you are driving the same highway you never see anything but your car and your vision of your house. But now along the way you begin to notice the birds in the air and the words people say. Certainly you are trained to observe details that are not of the analytical part of your mind. It has nothing to do with the analytical part of your mind. It now has to do with the visual part of your mind the *dianoia*.

For the first time I was trying to draw Christ's hand and I said how long, I mean if you are drawing an ordinary cartoon is different. You don't care the length but I want it to be accurate and to be able to produce what I see with my own fingers. And so I asked how long from the elbow to the arm of a human being whose face is that long. I began to ask questions like that. Then I began drawing His eyebrow. I began to notice people's eyebrow like I never before. You could classify people into different types of eyebrow. Do you know you could tell a good man and a bad man by looking at them in the face right now? If you begin to be more sensitive to these things, I tell you, you could tell a leader from a non-leader just by looking at them. Why? Because before I begin to realize I must not only develop the analytical part the *dialogismos* I must develop the *dianoia*. I mean if you want to develop you got to do it. By doing that it began to help me to visualize. I began to tap on the capacity that was what I call dormant.

So I remember I use to say I can't do it, I can't do it but the Lord began to say, Son I want you to walk in the capacity of the mind of Christ where nothing is impossible. It's not going to be impossible to you immediately but you have to be slowly and tapping on the mind of Christ. As I began to draw that face, I began to realize that everything that a person is, is reflected on their face somehow or other. So developing on the analytical side, I sat down and thought about, I am in touch with many things.

In science there are four main forces. They are the force of electro magnetism, the nuclear force that holds the atoms together, the force of gravity and the fourth force is the force that causes radioactive carbon to decay. All science will tell you that those are the four main forces. As I was looking at that suddenly it strikes me and said God created all things, all those forces had to be linked to God's mind. I sat down took a few minutes to analyze that statement in praying and you know the key speaking in tongues, dialogue with God. Then God began to show me something and I am also still working on that. Now I spend most of my time in the Word and in prayer.

I don't want to give anybody the impression that I have become an artist. I was just sitting down and began to realize and then the Spirit began to impress. I haven't put it through yet. Once I finish everything I intend to write a whole article and send it to the new scientist for them to have a look. What came was this, today they are still trying to discover the source of matter but it came that when God spoke His word, there were two main forces released in 2 different directions and the interplay of those force. The movement of those forces causes all matter. From there I began to observe how or what. Everybody knows all things are made from atoms but what I am interested is what made the electrons. What made the protons and what made the neutrons, how they came about, how to unite those four forces in one unified theory. God gave me an understanding to know how the electro magnetism is tied to the force of gravity and the two are linked together. That set me thinking.

In Australia when I was there in Perth, I met this inventor and this inventor invented a machine. He was talking to me about this machine that could draw in all the electricity you need from the air. I say what is the theory involved?

He told me when he submitted for that experiment recently in England, they tested it and they have managed to create what we call a revolving electro magnetic field. He said that field would help us in understanding the law of anti-gravity. He was an inventor and I said what is the theory behind, there must be a theory behind, there must be a cause and effect. We are not talking about things that are coincidental; there is a law involved, in order to cause the mind to have more concentration in that area. Then the best is as you come to God's Word, as you take the scriptures there are many exercises that you need to tap on to the mind of Christ.

One area is as you take the scriptures, you try to visualize it clearly as much as you can. You will not be able to do your devotional life in detail in this way because it takes too long to go through the Bible. But if you take a few minutes a day to do that, it will begin to cause the mind of Christ in your life to flow through. It's not the training you learn in school. It's the training you have to adapt from your heart as your heart attitude. When you come to God's Word again the heart has been set and now your approach in life is always *line upon line, precept upon precept*, one verse here, one verse there, this scripture must harmonize with that scripture. This law must harmonize with that. When you began to come to God's Word, you began to have more truth that God can give you.

Exercising the mind of Christ in whatever your area is, if it's an area that you have never done before. Lets say you are an accountant and all you do is accounts. Once in a while take out a dictionary and just learn a new word there. Perhaps you read God's Word and you look at one of God's Word. One or two words from the scripture and you may read the word *sanctify*. What does the word *sanctify* mean in all its fullness? Look up the dictionary because words are definition and definition has many shades. Look it up, meditate on it.

Sometimes we work on certain parts of our mind; there are 5 basic development of the human mind. There are those who develop in the area of what I call analyzing, analysis. There is a certain type of mind that goes that way. They are the philosophers or scientists or people like that. Then there are those who understand human relationship. These people in the world may not look like they

are intelligent from the scientist's point of view but they are those who make the best diplomats because they understand human relationship. They understand human responses. They understand that realm. So there is the second realm that a person moves into. Usually these people make good managers. They make good diplomats, ambassadors because they see human responses that a scientist does not see. A scientist is just interested in his theory and results but the diplomat will ask questions. The second type of person who is expert in relationship will ask the question how will people respond to your theory. The scientist won't be asking those questions. He will be asking whether that theory is fact or not, proven or not, and they take a different type of approach.

A third type of personality is what I call an engineering type personality. There are those who are skillful with the hands. They could take anything and make it into a technology possibility. These are those who end up becoming mechanical engineer. They are those who take what is there. If you are a contractor or engineer, you are not only limited in finances, you are not only limited by the architectural plan, and you are limited by your resources. One architectural plan you could have 20 approaches based on the budget. So you are in the area. You are skillful in the hands and there is another development. In this series we go through and we don't have much time today. I just want to show that there are perceptions in Jacob's 12 sons but here is where there is development in that area.

The fourth development is what I call the artistic area, those who become artists and musicians. They develop a different part of their being and that is a slant that they had in life.

The fifth development are those who develop their physical body and they are skillful in the exercise and the harmony of their physical body. They become great sportsmen and sportswomen, and world champions. It takes skill too in those areas. It takes mental development. I tell you there are mental development involved as well as physical development.

Those who understand the function of the human body and know how to

build it to a great finish in those 5 major developments and in all those areas you will notice this. Lets turn to book of Genesis and see the development of different areas and what we are saying here is which ever area you are in from one of these five, in order to enlarge your capacity in that area you may have to look into the other areas. For example, to be a better scientist you have to go to look at the engineers and see all the possibilities and then you come back and try to bring your theories to an extent and study those areas that are applicable to that realm. You see by looking into that one department it enlarges you. It is just like you are in one department in your office or in one ministry.

Lets illustrate from the ministry, you could be called to an evangelist but you do not fully understand the pastor's office. So for a year or so you work with a pastor, you learn the pastoral office then later you launch into your evangelist office. You understand what goes on in the pastor office and it makes you a better evangelist. A pastor who has never been in the field, he starts traveling, I tell you when he comes back he appreciate the traveling ministry. Your experience of it enlarges your capacity. I will say you come back you become a better pastor.

This is the same in your office, if you are working in one department all the time, and you never contact all the other areas, I tell you, you may have strife with other areas because of your ability. But when you began to really move into another person's shoes in a totally different department. You are in engineering and the other person in management and you began to understand the problems involved. You could be a great engineer but I tell you great engineer without good people still nothing comes out. Then you understand about this management part, which you are poor in. I tell you after this you become a better engineer.

Here is where we are talking about the mind of Christ where we have limited ourselves because of our experience or we were told or convinced ourselves that, that's all we are. We never enlarge ourselves. Every experience you experience, this is interesting in life that life consists of people and relationship. Even though I may not be a great vine grower, when I mix with someone who grows grapes, I am interested in everything I can about grapes. I want to know what is his experience. What he fears? Why, because if I understand him I will understand a little bit more of myself. A little bit more of my mystery, a little bit

more of my ability in these other areas. You may not be a farmer, or perhaps you are a farmer and you may not know anything about marketing.

And always, as a Christian you are just satisfied like a little frog under the coconut shell. In Christ we got to begin to extend our tents and our borders in order to tap into the mind of Christ. As a farmer, this is what you should do. You should begin to learn what it takes to be a sales person. Begin to understand the things and the difficulties involve by being the middleman. Why? Because the farmer thinks the middleman is getting everything. The middleman thinks the farmer is making use of him in everything and strife comes out. But the greater mind that we have in Christ the greater our capacity to understand each other. Not only that, in the end the farmer became a better farmer. You know why? Because when he gets into marketing area, although he has never known any marketing but because he has learned to have the mind of Christ. You got to boldly step beyond your border. Don't be limited by narrow mindedness. Narrow mindedness is now Christ mind. Christ mind gives you capacity for all things and you begin to step beyond your boundary. For a moment you take one whole week off from your farming and you really sit and live with those middle people and then you understand the bargaining that is involved. You travel with him to see all the various farmers to look for the best prices. You come back and you realize that you got these arrears to meet. You got all those goods to deliver. The problems with transportation, the problem with this, how long the goods last and then after everything you come back and you realize that you are a better farmer now. Why? Now you know the type of goods that will be more saleable and now you know, perhaps there are certain things like the way you pack the goods that makes a difference to his life. It makes you a better farmer and the world will be a better place if we begin to enlarge beyond our border.

Lets look at Gen.49 and you notice that Jacob has a perception of his sons. He compare his sons sometimes not all of them to different animals. Here he says in verse 2 *"Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, and listen to Israel your father. Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity and the excellency of power. Unstable as water, you shall not excel, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it, he went up to my couch."* What Rueben did was that Rueben had defiled his relationship and incest was involved. So we have here something in the heart of Rueben is going to cause him not to succeed.

You say how can it be? Look at that, what Rueben did was in his past, but Jacob is prophesying his future. How did he know, because he knows that when the heart is affected in a certain area, unless it's dealt with, at that time Christ did not come yet, the future is affected.

Then he goes on. *“Simeon and Levi are brothers; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. Let not my soul enter the council, let not my honor be united to the assembly; for in their anger they slew a man and in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. Cursed be their anger.”*

We will look quickly on the 5 animals and we close. We will do more teaching on all these later. In verse 8, *“Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you.”* Verse 9, *“Judah is a lion's whelp”* Judah the lion.

Then we continue to verse 13, *“Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea”* Verse 14, *“Issachar is a strong donkey”*. Issachar a donkey, second animal.

Verse 17 *“Dan shall be a serpent by the way”*, third animal serpent.

Verse 21, *“Nathalie is a deer let loose; he uses goodly words.”* That's the fourth animal the deer.

Verse 27, *“Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he shall devour the prey and at night he shall divide the spoil.”*

Anyway we have those 5 animals there, the lion, the donkey, the serpent, the serpent here is not necessary use it as evil but what I call the redeem part. The fourth animal was a deer. The deer in verse 21 you notice he talks about goodly

words.

Benjamin the ravenous wolf. Benjamin is always the tribe that is the warrior. You read in the Bible book of Judges that the tribe of Benjamin could go against all the other tribes; it was not easy to defeat them. It talks about the type of personality that excels in physical exploits. Those are skillful in that area.

Then Nathalie the deer he gives goodly words, that gives you a clue itself. Those who excel in and understand relationship speaks goodly words. Diplomacy is their best. I mentioned those who understand relationship and people.

Then cunningness as seen in Dan as a serpent. If you notice in the book of Genesis it talks about cunning. Those are what I call; the word cunning has been used in the negative and positive way. You remember I talked about Bezaleel and Aholiab cunning crafts man, because they are skillful in doing things and bringing things about. Then talk about what we call the realm of artistic is involved. The realm of cunningness involved. In Aholiab and Bezaleel talks about the artistic aspect involved. If you remember that Satan before he fell was one of the chief musicians in heaven that's Lucifer. His voice was like music before he fell. In that realm he was one of the worship archangels that was involved with God. But he fell because pride came in. Pride could come in any department when we forgot that there are others who are different from us and are skillful in their own right. So that talks about an area of what I call skillful artistry.

The donkey in verse 14. Issachar is a strong donkey, notice what he does. Lying down between two burdens; He saw that rest was good, and that the land was pleasant; he bowed this shoulder to bear a burden and became a band of salves. That is the prophesy about Issachar. But here is a picture of a donkey. The ability of what I call the area of working with the hands. Those good with their hands and you could do something out of it like a donkey.

Then we have Judah and he focuses on what we call the religious aspect. That is on the philosophical religious aspect. The scepter comes from him, the lion. The lion is a symbol as well as a ferocious animal.

So these 5 different animals symbolize the 5 different types of personalities that are among the 12 sons of Jacob. We will look further into all these things as we tap into the mind of Christ. Everyone has a different frame of reference and in order to tap into the fullness of the mind of Christ we got to talk about the cross-cultural exchanges. Well in the ministry of God we talk about moving into new things, encompassing new areas, new things into your experience so that you could become a better person after that. Much better at functioning in what God ask you to do. You cannot be everything. Remember having the mind of Christ doesn't mean that you are jack-of-all-trades. No, it means that you are appreciative and fully understanding everything else that is involved in the other person. You could bring their experience to enrich your experience and your understanding enlarged in those areas.