

THE MIND OF CHRIST SERIES

WISDOM AND TONGUES

Lets turn to Luke and we are looking at the mind of Christ. Luke 2, I sense it's going to be a short message. We are considering the mind of Jesus and we want to see the development of that mind because the Bible does tell us that we are to have the same mind He has. And God wants us to have a perfect mind. It's not going to be instant but it's going to be a gradual process and you could tell as you walk with God that something is happening on the inside. Besides our spirit being born again become a new creature in Christ. Something is happening to our soul, to our intellect, to our emotions, to our mind, to our will. As I look back, I say God I cannot even recognize myself and I know God is continuing walking with you that we are going to change some more. We are not going to be the same people that we were last year and next year we are not going to be the same people as we are this year. Cause our mind is different and some quickening begin as we began to grow in the Word and the principles of God's Word.

Now the Bible here makes a statement of our Lord Jesus Christ when He went back to stay with His parents after the incident at the temple. Luke 2:51 *"Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject to them but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and with men."*

The word wisdom is expressed here immediately after the incident at the temple. Lets read the incident too. In verse 47, which shows us tied up to His understanding and His heart. Verse 47 *"and all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."* That was when the mother came and found Him there.

There are several Greek words for the word understanding but there are 3 primary Greek words for the word understanding. One, which you are possibly familiar by now, is the word "*dianoia*", which is used in Eph.1: 17 that talk about the imagination part of our mind. The other one is the one that Paul used in I Cor.14: 14-15 when he says if I pray with my spirit my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? It says I will pray with my spirit and I will pray with my understanding. Paul used a different Greek word for the word understanding in I Cor.14. He used the word "*nous*", which is in our study on the mind. We have spoken about how that refers to the conscious part of our mind, which is about 5% of our whole intellect and mind. So the word "*nous*" refers to the conscious part of our mind, the understanding.

Here in Luke chapter 2 when they talked about how they were astonished at His understanding and how He grew in wisdom. The word understanding is a special Greek word, is the Greek word "*sunesis*". The word *sunesis* is a very unusual word for understanding. Mainly because the word *sunesis* doesn't have any logical connection with the word mind if you want to examine it carefully. It comes from the word "sun" which means to be gathered with. Like the word synagogue comes from the word "sun". The Greek word is "*sunagoge*", comes from the word synagogue. From the word "sun" to be gathered together with, it talks about gathering together. Then it talks about "*sunesis*" and then the word "*nesis*" has reference to collection of something, anything. So if you put both together and it refers to a collection and for some translation like the young interpret the word *sunesis* as a compilation, a collection together and that's all. They let it hanging. A compilation together of what? Of course we understand it as a full comprehension, an ability to gather a full scope of all data together at once. So that's the special word understanding that is used. Now that word understanding is relevant to the spiritual realm.

I prayed and said, God the word *sunesis* seems to point to a person more than to a thing. The word "sun" if you study the Greek word is more used for gathering of people and it has a sense of a personality involved. To be gathered together with. So it seems to talk more about a gathering of people than just things. And as I examine it very carefully and reflect over all those things that we have been teaching and touching on, there comes this echo of truth that resound from heaven. Like the voice of God saying wisdom is not a thing, is not a force and it never is but wisdom has always been determined by God to be a person. I realize God, wisdom is a person.

Yes, as we have noted from last week the word *logos* that they use in the Greek in reference to Jesus in John chapter 1 verse 1. *"In the beginning was the logos and the logos was with God, and the logos was God."* They don't treat the *logos* as an it, as a force. John is referring to the *logos* as a person and in fact as God. We express how if we were having a Greek mind and we live in Paul's time and John's time, as we read the epistle in the Greek, assuming we were fluent in the New Testament Greek and if we read the scriptures in the original language as it was written, this would have been the understanding of what the word *logos* is. In the beginning was the *logos* and the *logos* was with God and the *logos* was God. Now the word *logos* in the understanding of the Greek mind symbolize the principal force and the principal wisdom. We possibly read it in this way, in the beginning was wisdom and wisdom was with God and wisdom was God. It confirms it. Proverbs says wisdom is the principal thing. It is the principal force and we realized that a person can have a force but a force may not be a person. Wisdom is a person. You could not separate the wisdom of God from its personality.

If you read the epistle of I John, there are two strong statements made. One is God is light and in our teaching we considered that light represents wisdom. The other one is God is love. When you use the word *is*, it is possible to reverse it and it will still be true. God is love; I am talking about God's kind of love. Then love is God. God is light and the only true light is God. And that confirms with what John chapter one is talking about.

Lets look at John 1, he says that there is only one light in the whole universe and that light he points in Jn.1: 4 talking about the *logos*, the wisdom, the supreme idea, the supreme principal idea. *"In Him was life and the life was the light of men and the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it."* So wisdom is life, is light, is *logos* and all these are tied up together. As we consider the wisdom of God and the mind of Jesus Christ, the mind of Jesus Christ remains the mind of Jesus Christ. In other words, the only way we could tap on that mind is to have a relationship with Him. It is not considered like the mind, a piece of mind you could cut off, put it inside you and then you have it. The whole key to the mind of Christ is relationship with God. Being related to Him.

Jesus shows us the example when He was on the planet earth, the book of Phil.2: 4-11 *"Let each of you look out not only for his own interest, but also for the interest of others."*

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also had highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The one statement he made here is in verse 5; let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus and it's a peculiar type of mind because in verse 3 as he introduced this subject, he says let nothing be done to selfish ambition or conceit. But he calls it here in lowliness of mind. What is lowliness of mind? He goes on to talk about how Jesus has this lowliness of mind. Have you ever heard the statement that is often made that says, he has the mind of his own? Sometimes that is used in reference to kids; they have a mind of their own. What do we mean? We mean that the individual is independent of whatsoever. When Adam and Eve fell into sin, they not only chose sin, they chose to have a mind of their own. They chose a mind that would function and makes its own decision separated from God. God says do not eat it but Adam ate it because he was given to eat. Eve ate it because she was tricked into eating it, but the function and they made the decision.

Lowliness of mind is the surrender of our mind. That is in I Cor.2 We have to approach this subject very carefully because we are not talking about being zombies, yet at the same time we are not advocating that we have an independent mind away from God. There is a balance between the two. On one side is what we call a passive mind. God does not advocate a passive mind that reduces us to zombies. God is not asking for robot like obedience where we do not think anymore. On the other side, it's definitely unscriptural and disobedient to surpass or think with surpass or go against God's principles, God's idea, God's Word just because we think we know more than God without realizing that God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts. So one side is what I call a proud mind, independent of God, saying God I don't need you. I could do this myself. I could think it out myself. So there is this extreme. Some where between those extremes is what we call lowliness of mind.

I Cor.2 talking about wisdom and the mind of Christ. In verse 1-4 "*And I*

brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or with wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” Verse 6, “However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory.”

It says here that the wisdom was planned, was ordained by God before the world was made. God determined that we have that special wisdom that comes from Him. What is that talking about? The person of Jesus Christ, the day God made the world, God determines that all things would flow to that second person of the Godhead. It says in Eph.1 before the foundation of the world God has chosen us in Christ, to be conformed to His image.

Now the person of Jesus Christ, it says in Him is the fullness of God. He is the logos of God, all the wisdom of God from the Alpha to the Omega. All that He is, He was and is to come has been placed or deposited in the person of Jesus Christ and that person of Jesus Christ is the source and the key behind all our wisdom.

That is why I Cor.1: 30 *“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God.”* Here again you see wisdom is a person. Every time you see the word *wisdom* mentioned, you could tie it back to a person. For wisdom is a person. It’s not just a force, it’s a force but above that it is a person. What is a person? A person is somebody who speaks, who functions separately from us, who has a personality, a voice, a mind, an emotion.

Wisdom in the book of Proverbs was personified as crying out in the streets. Wisdom is a person, the relationship that we need to have. God has never intended wisdom to be separated from the person. There is no possibility of having wisdom separated from the person who is wisdom. Cause God never considered wisdom a thing. It’s just like a person has the finances, he could easily pass to me some finance, fifty dollars and that fifty dollars become separated from his person and I can take it and buy something with that. But he can’t pass me his hand because if I take his hand, it’s no more a hand that can be used. It becomes a dead hand. So he could pass me his substance and it could separate from his person but

I cannot separate his body from him. If I want his hand, then his whole body has to follow him. God has determined that His wisdom is like the hand of Jesus. You can never have His wisdom without having Him.

When Adam and Eve fell into sin, thinking they could have the wisdom. You remember what they wanted? What did the devil tell them through the serpent? There was a tree of knowledge of good and evil, the tree is the fruit of knowledge and evil. The devil said through the serpent, eat the fruit and you will be wise. Do you know that the first sin that happened because somebody wanted to be wise without God. The serpent said, you would be wise like God if you eat the fruit. No, God said not to eat. Did God really say that? No, God knows that if you eat it you will be wise like Him. What was the actual temptation, the temptation was you could be so like Him, so you don't need Him. See, that's what the devil was saying through the serpent. You could be like Him, so you could do without Him. Wisdom minus God was the temptation. We know the whole story. Eve took it, ate it and passed it to Adam. Adam ate it and here we are struggling along. But the fact is that the same temptation still happens in a different way, in different places to different person. The greatest temptation besides the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life is to have wisdom minus God, independence without God. There is no liberty except where the Spirit of liberty is. Any liberty without the Spirit of liberty is slavery to sin. That's behind the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. Behind it all is have your own way. Have your own ideas.

We are teaching about the mind of Christ, we have to balance it with this message because we may end up so puffed up and we forget wisdom is a person. We think we are very intelligent because our I.Q. is above 200 and then perhaps we had some success in something. Then the world loves you when you succeed, the world will renounce you when you fail. And what happen is sometimes we get some success and then we make a big issue out of it and starts moving away from dependence on God. That's when we get into trouble.

There is a story in the Bible in Joshua's time, how they fought with the people in Jericho. It was quite easy; they followed God's instruction. God said, for 7 days you will march round that city and the first 6 days you march round one. The seventh day you march round 7 times, and then when you complete it, shout. They followed God's instruction and they succeeded gloriously.

They see the city of Ai, some of those who had fought and won, they said we are strong. See, what is happening now, we don't need to send so many as we are expert warriors. Lets turn to Joshua 7: 3 *"Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousands men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few."* And they lost the battle. That was not God's idea that was their own idea. Ideas are the essence of His will given to us. Wrong ideas are breeding grounds for sin and failure.

Paul says in I Cor.2 that the wisdom he spoke was not his but it was of God and from God. In verse 10 *"God has revealed them to us through His Spirit for the Spirit searches all things, yea the deep things of God, for what man knows the things of man except the spirit of man which is in him. Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."* Here again you see the wisdom is a person. You never isolate wisdom from a person. It's not just a thing or a force but it is a person. If wisdom is a person, then the key to wisdom is not education. It's relationship. If wisdom is just a thing, then the key would be in other realms. Because wisdom is a person, the only way to be wise is to relate to the person of wisdom and keep a close relationship.

God does not just desire to give us counsel, He wants to come and remain and be the ever-living counselor in our lives. God does not want just to give us healing, He wants to come into our lives and be the ever-present healer. God does not want us to just have a portion of His nature but He wants to come down and say, I want to dwell in them and be in them. The goal of God is that He will be in relationship with us. Since wisdom is a person, we need to learn to relate to Him. Which Paul says, No.1 Love Him. He says that the eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of men the things which God has reserved for those who love Him. The conclusion would be without love there is no wisdom from God and it's no ordinary love.

I've found out that love has a price. God so loved the world that it cost Him His Son to die on the cross for us. When David loves God, he wanted his love to have a cost. He doesn't want to love God cheaply. So when God forgave him and pardoned him and showed him mercy, after he numbered the Israelites against God's advice, the plague spread all over and he was in the field of one Araunah the Jebusite and the angel of the Lord raised his sword to destroy Jerusalem and God said stop. David was so grateful and he wanted to bring a burnt offering to God. So he wanted the piece of land where the plague stops to mark his love and

gratefulness for the mercy of God. The owner said, David you have it, take it free, it's yours. David said, no, I would not bring to God an offering that I did not pay for it cause that didn't cost me something. David loves God. (cf 2 Samuel 24)

There are too many people who want to worship God without cost. There is no such thing as love without costing you something. If you love some body with God's love, it will cost you. The world has a kind of what they call love of convenience. That's why a lot of relationship has broken because there is selfishness. True love means it's a sacrificial love. There is something been sacrificed. So Paul says eye has not seen nor ear heard the things that God has for those who would love Him that you are willing to part with a great portion of your time, your substances and everything else and just to be with Him. That's the important thing.

Paul continue in I Cor.2: 13 *"These things we also speak not in words which men wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches comparing spiritual things is spiritual."*

Jesus did not send us a teaching; He sent us a teacher or the Holy Spirit. He didn't just send us truth in a book but He sent us the person of the Holy Spirit. It is a personal intimate relationship with the person of the Holy Spirit and through the person of the Holy Spirit the Lord Jesus Christ the source of all wisdom. Wisdom is a person.

Then he says in verse 16, *"Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him, but we have the mind of Christ."* Now he relates the mind of Christ with wisdom, with understanding.

And now we understand why he uses the Greek word *sunesis*, because the word *sunesis* talks about a gathering together with. I found it's not just a gathering together of facts but also a gathering together with a person. Every time you are connected to the person *sunesis* operates. In all our lives the Holy Spirit has always been with us as a person but we don't communicate with Him and we don't talk with Him. We don't talk to the Lord Jesus Christ as a person like we talk to human beings. We should learn to cultivate a relationship with Him where we could draw from His mind. His mind remains His mind but through time as we understand His mind and we began to think like His mind. His mind is still His mind and He

lives in us. Sunesis means a tying up together with, a relating together with that person of the Holy Spirit and through Him the Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit of truth is the Spirit of wisdom. Truth and wisdom are one. For all wisdom is truth and all truth contains wisdom.

The other word that he expressed is the word that we will find in I Cor.2, the word mystery. In verse 7 "*We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery.*" The Greek word for mystery *musterion*, speaks about something that is not common, something that is reserved only when you are initiated. In other words there is a price to pay before that comes to you. There is an initiation process, a ceremony that takes place in mystery. Again it ties back from that relationship. So out of the relationship, I relate to God and He welcome me into the realm of mystery. To the people outside looking in is mysterious; to you looking out from the mystery you understand it. That is *sunesis*.

Now the key part of the relationship if you look carefully lies more in your heart, in your lips then in your head. Notice this in chapter 2:6 we speak, look at how many times the Bible emphasis on speaking. Lets look at verse one, "*And I brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God*" But he says in verse 4 "*My speech and my preaching were not persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit flowing through.*" Then he continues in verse 6 "*We speak the wisdom of God*" and verse 7, "*we speak the wisdom of God. Verse 10, God has revealed them to us through His Spirit for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*"

Wisdom that flows from God in *sunesis* is tied up through the function of words that flow through us. It's not just in the head; it's in the spirit. With that in mind we will look at I Cor.14: 14 "*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.*" Then in verse 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.*" How does the whole thing tie up now?

Paul says something peculiar about the New Testament. It seems that the New Testament is a special period where God reserve His special wisdom to be shown. Its all over in the Bible, Colossians, Ephesians, Corinthians, wisdom that is in the other ages were not revealed is reserved for the New Testament. There is something special He has for us. Better than the old covenant. Colossians talked

about how that mystery of all the ages, that all the previous ages does not know. Even Daniel, David doesn't know but the N.T. had. Jesus in Matt. 13 talked about how there are many prophets and righteous men who desire to hear what you hear, He told His disciples but they don't get to hear them because its reserved for us.

There is another thing peculiar about New Testament - they shall speak in unknown tongues. If you tie the two peculiarities together, you will realize that through tongues and the interpretation of tongues, the wisdom of God is released to the people. Tongues are not we speaking but the Spirit speaking using our voice. The words come from the Holy Spirit and it says here, he who speaks in tongues speaks in mystery. No wonder Paul says let him that pray in an unknown tongues pray that he may interpret. So how do we tap on to the wisdom of God? Last week we talked about music and today we talk about speaking in tongues. If you will know the value of speaking in tongues, you will speak all the time. If we realize how much wisdom flows when our mouth speaks in tongues, we will never again neglect speaking in tongues. But we have to move deeper, as we say there are different qualities of speaking in tongues and different levels; we have to move into the level where the interpretation starts flowing. That's when there is a relationship. You will feel like what Paul says, it's no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. Like somebody inside you to advice you, teach you. Not just giving you counsel but He is a counselor who is ever-living in your life and follows you wherever you go. Through the interpretation of tongues, you understand what He says.

It's just like you travel to a strange new country, lets say you landed in Russia. There was one brother in Christ, he shared with me that he has one friend who took Aeroflot and he has to land in Russia to wait for the next flight. He did not know what to do so he went up to a big sized Russian and asked for some directions. He asked in all languages that possibly can and that big fellow scolded him. He was there in a country where everybody was saying something that you don't understand. What good is a tourist guide in a country who cannot communicate with you? Now the wisdom of God is so extensive, so powerful, so wise, and so deep that no human languages could fully express it. We have a semblance of that in natural knowledge. The longer your vocabulary the deeper your concept can be. A child cannot comprehend deeper concept because their vocabulary is lacking.

Can you imagine all the languages in the world cannot and is not good

enough to convey the wisdom of God? So God says, I will give my people new language that will not be limited to their vocabulary. There is only one snag - every time you want the wisdom that flows out from you, you have to ask for the interpretation because it's so deep. One or two sentences of that could take 200 sentences of our understanding to comprehend that. I tell you God has sometimes spoken one word to me and I took one week to understand His one word, the full extent and meaning of what He is trying to say. He just said one word. That's how great God's wisdom is. So there is only one snag, we have all the wisdom of God inside us but most people lack the interpretation.

What good is it? It's just like landing in Russia and everybody is telling you something and you don't know what it is. You need an interpreter. We have an interpreting system that God has inbuilt inside our human spirit. Our human spirit seems to understand everything because it's our spirit that speaks. Paul says Icor.14: 15 *"I will pray with the Spirit and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the Spirit I will also sing with understanding."* So, he says he will do both. He will mix it together and flow along with both. Verse 13 *"Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret."* Pray, ask from God and that will flow out through you.

Sometimes it happen this way where as I need a direction from God, I would just let the tongues flows out because the tongues are the wisdom of God. They are mystery. He that speaks in tongues speaks in a mystery. So I would flow along and speak in tongues. Until I sense my interpreter turn on, I could feel a tiny little figure reaching out into the spirit realm. From the spirit realm into the understanding and out comes something from the spirit that wants to be conveyed in English. So when I sensed it, the wisdom begins teaching my mind.

Wisdom is a person and you got to relate to that person. Do you know when somebody wants to tell you something when you are talking? Lets say if I am talking to you. As I was talking I sort of know you want to tell me something. We sort of sense each other as a person. So that's the same sense I have in my spirit. When I am praying and talking to God, I sensed God wants to tell me something but my mind cannot catch it. My spirit is catching it. So what do you do when some body wants to talk to you? You shut up. But the spiritual way of shutting up is to yield my mind, my voice and my mouth to the other person to use. Since He is speaking through me so I will be speaking in tongues and I sense that He is speaking something to me. You are not talking to yourself in a natural way. I will

be speaking in tongues and then God telling me something "Son, be strong in Me". I continue speaking in tongue, and then I heard "I will open doors and no one can shut it". Speak in tongues again, "you will know My way for my Spirit will go before you...do not fear them, just be strong." I hear Him talking those words to me. So I allowed him to use my mouth to talk back to me. It's fantastic.

It is what Kenneth Hagin said how he use tongues to edify himself that way. It's a powerful force to release that wisdom of God. Every time you have a situation, every time you have a problem pray in tongues, because your mind doesn't know but your spirit knows and search in the deep depths of your spirit. Then you sensed He says something to you. When you sense it yield your lips to Him. He will speak through you and to you. Then you will hear Him saying "I will bless you and cause you to know My blessings like I have not blessed before." It's interesting; you are talking to the Lord and the Lord talking to you and through you. Isn't that wonderful? He talks to you and you talk to Him. Of course in the world people will lock you up in a lunatic asylum.

That's what Paul is saying here, tapping on to the wisdom of God and as we tap on to the wisdom of God and God's spirit speaks in tongues in mystery. Then we interpret the mysteries to become wisdom. Then our mind becomes strained in the wisdom of God. You could go on for hours, by the time you finish that kind of prayer relationship with God, it's like stepping away from God's throne after you have just met God at His throne. I mean His glory just oozes out through you, that's what Paul mean that you shall be edified.

So the next time you have a business problem or any other problems, just sit down and have a good talk with God. Have a little talk with Jesus, this problem I am facing.... Pray in tongues. Lord I lift up my problem to you. Pray in tongues and you pray and pray until you reach a certain level. When you reach that level, you will hear Him talking to you. The moment you hear Him talking to you let Him use your mouth to talk back to you. Sometimes you only have a small inclination, a word or two, let it go and suddenly more will come out. Part of the process is what Jesus outline here.

In Matt.10: 20 It says *When they deliver you up do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak.* That is in a difficult time; He is taking about a time of crisis. He is not talking about when

there is no pressure. He says when the pressure is turned on you; relax for He is inside you. And he says for it is not you who speak but the spirit of your Father who speaks in you. What kind of relationship it is? Please don't take me wrong. If you take it wrongly that means you don't need Bible school training any more.

We got to do our homework; we got to do our relationship with God. All these things are normal under times of pressure. Life has its pressure, there are times when it is the valley, there are times when it is a mountain but we continually remain in the mountain in the spirit. There will be times when the pressure is on and there will be time when the pressure is off. God will not let you suffer that you will be under pressure all the time. But when the pressure is on, take heart for it's not you who speak but the Spirit of God that speaks in you. As you rest in Him and tap upon Him, He comes out from you. Every problem we have is an idea problem and ideas come from God. I will call it a lack of revelation and revelation comes if you have the revelator, you have Jesus Christ the wisdom.

This is a powerful relationship and of course these things are simple truth. But they need a lot of practical application that we have to move into. So this morning we see how wisdom is a person. *Sunesis* or understanding comes when you are related to that person. When Jesus Christ was sitting down answering and asking questions He was hearing from God, the right question to ask and the right answer to give. It has a meaning of Him being related together with the Holy Spirit all the time and with God the Father. He says that everything He speaks, what he hears from the Father He speaks, *sunesis*, mysteries and a special work of speaking in tongues that God release to our lives right now.