

**RIGHTEOUSNESS SERIES**

**THE TOUCH OF THE MIND**

Turn to the book of Romans. We have quoted several verses and showed how Jesus is the end of our everything and He is our righteousness. He is the end of the law in Rom. 10:4 *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* Not forgetting II Cor. 5:21 it says *for He became sin that we might be righteousness of God.* And righteousness is a gift from God. We have been exploring how that righteousness works and what happens to us as we allow this gift for righteousness to be quickened in our life and transform us. We have taught on the transforming work of Christ. Now this morning we want to talk about some of the intricate processes that take place in our personal transformation. Looking at the force of righteousness, we want to look at the touch of Jesus on our minds.

In Rom. 7 Paul is speaking about the righteousness of God when he described the struggle between what is good within him and what is sin nature in his life. In verse 20 onwards *Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.* Rom. 8:2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Now notice that there are three laws that are operating. One is the law of sin, which is operating through the physical body. The second is the law of the mind. It tells us here in verse 23 that the law of sin was warring against the law of the mind. Then thirdly there is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus comes into our life and the bible tells us in Rom. 8:10 *if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin* or the body's passion and the law of sin that is in the body is cancelled and annulled. So that it says here that the Spirit is life because of righteousness. So the law of the Spirit of life imparts the revelation of Christ into our life and it causes the gift righteousness of God to abound in our lives. And that cancels out the law of sin that is operating in our life but what about the law of the mind? What happened to the mind? The law of the mind is the law of transformation. The law of the Spirit keeps working upon our mind until our mind is transformed in Him and we are perfectly like Christ. In other words, the law of the mind had no power against the law of sin until the law of the Spirit of life comes in and annuls and cancels out the law of sin in the body, then the law of the mind could operate in harmony with the law of the Spirit.

Cross reference to one more verse Rom. 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Now there is a phrase here that we want to explore. It says be transformed by the renewal of your mind. The word *transformation* is from the Greek word *metamorphoomai*, which we have studied in this series earlier. *Metamorphoo* is translated transformed. Here it says that the transformation that Christ is in our life but that transformation is taking place by the renewal of the mind. The word *renew* is from the Greek word *anakainoo* which means to be made new again. Therefore, something must happen in our minds in order for that transformation to be sealed. Christ is inside the heart of every Christian who accepts Him young or old. But how we allow the Christ in us to touch our minds will be the key to that transformation. And today's message is called the Touch of the Mind.

We are not talking about mental power or positive thinking or metaphysics. But we are talking about some real work from the Spirit how He touches something on our inside and causes our mind to be renewed. When our minds are renewed,

we are transformed in our nature. Something must touch us on our inside.

And for us to see it clearly I like to draw a story from the bible from the book of Luke 15:11 *A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me. So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in the land, and he began to be in want.*

No money, no friends and nobody to turn to. Did he turn back to God yet, no?

*Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into the fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.*

Imagine sitting there, feeding the pigs and watching all those pigs eating. I think he is the only one who has ever envied pigs for the food. None of you would go over to a pig sty and look at some of those things they are eating and say, "O how I wish I could have those food for lunch." But he was so hungry that he wished he could eat the pods. Did he change yet? No. When the father gave him the money, did he change? No. When he spent all his money, did he change? No. When the famine came, did he change? No. When he was sitting there looking at the pig's food, did he change? No.

But one day in verse 17 *But when he came to himself*, you see change comes from inside not outside. You can imprison criminals but you cannot change them. You can hit them on the outside and sometimes you can punish them on the outside but still people will not change. All change of any human being comes from internal realization. One day as he was looking at the pigs suddenly his mind is touched. The touch of the mind. It must have been the Spirit of God working. The bible says he came to himself.

*He said, "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare,*

*and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father and will say to him, "Father I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.*

He came to himself and then he started reasoning. I believe something happened to his mind. Something struck him; something touched him. For once, his reasoning was clear. Do you know if we don't have clarity, if we don't have light we will be like the three blind men? They came before an elephant and the first blind man felt its body and says, "An elephant is like a wall." That's not true. Its not really a true picture. Another grabbed the elephant by the leg and said, "An elephant is like a tree." Is that statement correct? No. The other blind man grabbed the elephant's tail and said, "An elephant is like a rope." But the blind were blind. But if their eyes were just opened, they would see what an elephant looks like. So something must open first.

The mind must have some divine light touching it. It is not by our brilliance, by our ability, by our training, by our education, that we could fully move into the fullness of the wisdom that God has for His people. It takes the Spirit of God to touch a part of our soul on our inside and scales would drop from our eyes. We would be able to see correctly.

Now looking at the prodigal son, it says that he came to himself. That means before that he was not himself. I am sure when he came to the father and said, "Father, I would like my inheritance now in advance," the father would have reasoned with him and tried to explain why he shouldn't do it. But in his mind, he has a mind of his own, he was determined to do what he wants to do in his life. But he was not himself. His reasoning was incorrect. Wrong perspective produces wrong reasoning. Wrong facts produce wrong conclusion. So the most important thing is get the correct facts or spiritually speaking, get the revelation first. Then the reasoning would come correctly.

The prodigal son had made up his mind. He would demand from his father. The father's reasoning did not move him. And he was not without a mind. But his mind was not touched. Something happened that touched his mind when he was sitting in the pig's sty. I know it's easier to hear God here in this church when you are worshiping God among believers. The presence of God is so moving that we weep in His presence. We could cry. We could laugh. We could rejoice. But all

the prodigal son heard was the sound of the pigs. And here he is trying to hear God, trying to think clearly. And yet the Spirit of God broke right through all those barriers, touched something on his inside and his reasoning became clear. When everything was clear and nice in his father's house his reasoning was unclear. Now when everything around was dirty and filthy his reasoning was clear. When he came to himself, he began to see things correctly. He began to see the truth about himself, about his situation, about God. Only the truth can set you free. Jesus says that you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. If you continue in the truth, you shall be His disciples. That is true spiritually and that is true naturally.

Do you know that if right now in your heart, in your mind, any knowledge that is inaccurate is producing bondage in your life? Any facts that are inaccurate are producing a wrong attitude and bondage in your life. We must have the truth for the truth to set us free.

Paul says it differently. He says in the book of II Cor. 10 how important what goes on in the mind of each one of us. II Cor. 10:4 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

Then and only then can we confront the powers of darkness. It's important to get at the truth. There is always the truth. In all accords in this land and in every nation, the lawyers debate and present the cases of their client. The judges sit trying to determine what is the truth. Because only when the truth is known can the real people who are innocent be set free. Truth is so powerful. Only the truth can set us free. That means right now every principle in our life, every inaccuracy in knowledge, every inaccuracy in facts, are producing bondage. That is why only the truth can set us free. A revelation in the Spirit, revelation in the natural of what is really true can set us free.

In the natural world, long ago Dr. Spoke came up with a book and said that its not really very civilized to discipline children. So it became an in-thing. Human beings are very clever and can come up with persuasive arguments. Yes, we are more cultured, we are no more barbarians and to discipline children is very barbaric. Only a few years ago Dr. Spoke himself said he was wrong. He should

have caned the children when they need caning. When that philosophy went out into the world and was embraced by families you know what it produced. It produced a whole generation of rebellious people who had never known discipline. And all the time the bible told us that he who loves his child would not spare the rod. He who spares the rod actually hates his child. Discipline is an important part of a child's training. The bible is never wrong.

Nowadays homosexuals are trying to argue their so-called truth about alternative lifestyle. But remember the bible is never wrong. The bible is always telling us what is the truth. And when we don't embrace truth, we pay the price for it. Some people say it's hard to follow the truth. It's hard to stand firm on the truth. Let me tell you when time passes its going to be harder still not to stand on the truth because truth will last through time. But untruth will never last.

It's important to understand that Paul is talking about the revelation of God that touches upon our mind. When the prodigal son sees the truth all his reasoning became correct and it produced a correct response. It produced a correct attitude. You can tell whether people have found the truth. Because Jesus told us what the truth was. Jn. 14:6 he says *I am the way, the truth and the life*. And everything that is not in the nature of Jesus, not in line with love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, kindness, and all the laws of God doesn't belong to the truth. So, when someone says, "I got the truth," and their attitude is anger, they haven't got the truth yet. The truth always produces a certain form of attitude and response that is in line with the truth of the Spirit.

When the prodigal son found the truth, he became contrite, humbled and recognized where he was. He recognized what he had done in the sight of God was wrong. He found the truth even before he went back to his father. While the prodigal son was still sitting with the pigs there and the revelation came to him, he had the touch of the mind. When his mind was touched, he began to see the truth. From that very second he was already being set free. When he determined to go back to his father, it was only the river of truth that led him more and more into freedom when he met his father. And behold when he saw his father, the father didn't rebuke him, didn't scold him, didn't despise him and didn't punish him. The father received him back with open arms. And he was restored. He found the truth and the truth set him free. He came to himself. There is a mental state that is produced by righteousness, a state of heart and a state of mind. When this revelation touches our mind, it is not in the realm of reasoning. We don't

reason into it. Something touches us and then we see it clearly. We don't try to reason into it like the blind men grabbing an elephant. No, something touches us then reasoning flows like a river. Reasoning and understanding are just side effects of revelation that touches the mind.

Let me give an example of the touch of the mind. In Lk. 24 The disciple had walked with Jesus for three years. They heard the teaching of Jesus at close hand. They even had private talks with Jesus when Jesus explained a lot of His teaching. They had shared a lifetime with Jesus. Now that Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected, they still didn't understand what was going on. Their understanding hasn't come yet. Reasoning still was dark and unclear. When Jesus appeared to them in Lk. 24:44 *These are the words which I spoke to you,* remember what their state of being was in verse 37 they were terrified and frightened. That was the state they were in when Jesus was raised from the dead. They couldn't accept it. Their minds couldn't operate in that realm. When God touches your mind, your mind began to operate in the spirit realm. Your mind operates in the natural realm but when God touches your mind, it starts operating in the spiritual realm and not just in the natural realm. This is the renewal of the mind.

Just to cross-reference on some of those things that were happening in the gospel of Mk. 16:11 *And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.* They didn't even believe the personal testimony of Mary Magdalene. Remember unbelief is also reasoning. When people say, "I don't believe in God," ask them whether they will have a reason. You see unbelief is not non-reasoning. Non-reasoning under philosophical classification is called agnosticism. An agnostic is someone who refuses to reason at all. But unbelief is reasoning into an opposing area called a lie and untruth. The mind is not inactive the mind is active. They did not believe because they were too naturally bound and they couldn't understand the scriptures, they couldn't understand what Jesus was saying. They couldn't understand all the facts that were presented. They couldn't understand the experience that they were experiencing. They need the touch of the mind.

Now in verse 12 *He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.* These were not strangers. These were the disciples of Jesus and who have been with Jesus for three years. Jesus had even told them before He

died that He will be raised from the dead, and Jesus even told them, "Go, I will meet you in Galilee." Isn't it true sometimes you could experience some spiritual phenomena but you couldn't understand them? But yet God doesn't want us to remain there He wants us to understand. Understanding and wisdom is a part of the river of God that He wants to give to us through His righteousness.

Cross reference to Matt. 28 and remember the passage we read earlier in Mk. 16 where the two disciples on the way to Emmaus came to the other disciples and told them and they still didn't believe. And that was the situation Jesus found them in Lk. 24 when He met them and they were in unbelief.

Now in Matt. 28:16-17 *Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, there worshiped Him, but some doubted.* Right up to the time some doubted. They just couldn't accept. Their mind got boggled. Do you know that all unbelief is basically a restriction of the mind? If we could be free from the mental restriction to see the way God sees, to believe the way God said it, we will move in a different dimension. God can do above all that you ask or think. Our highest thinking, our highest conception is only one tiny atom in an ocean to God. It is the limits of our mind that bind us, blind us and put us into bondage. Only the truth can set us free. Every lie will put us in bondage. Lies can be seen sometimes like temporary truth. But they will put us into bondage and you will know it by their results.

Now you know the atmosphere the disciples were in. They had doubt, they had unbelief, they had all these questioning. Their minds were working but not working properly. What they need is the touch of the mind. Now He will touch the spirit first before He touches the mind. For only when the mind is touched and renewed, can there be a transformation.

Lk. 24:44 *These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. And He opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures.* The touch of the mind. Was the touch of the mind through education? No. We are talking about supernatural things here. I know those of you who are trained to think scientifically, it would be hard for you to comprehend how that could be possible. But in the spiritual world things

are imparted and not just trained. In the natural things are trained. A runner has to train very hard. The physical body needs training all the time. All our natural skills and things that co-operate with the body, soul and spirit need training.

When a child learns a piano, it takes many years to progress from grade one, grade two, etc. to grade eight. Even if they start learning the piano when they are seven they may be seventeen years old by the time they complete grade eight. Everyday they are mastering the basic foundations before they progress into performance skill and composition.

Similarly, there is a realm in the spirit of impartation. Don't take that as a short cut. God doesn't impart and make us lazy. With every impartation there need to be an acclimatization. Part of acclimatization to the God's gift seems to require training. However, we need to receive first before we can acclimatize. We cannot do first and then try to receive. In the spiritual realm, you receive first and then you do. You don't do in order to try to receive. In the spiritual world God could just impart the gift of music and then suddenly you could play the piano. The singer Andre Crouch could play a bit of piano. His father was a pastor. One day his father was praying in a prayer meeting the anointing of God was so strong on the father's life. He went to his son, laid hand on his son and through the prophetic words says, "God now gives to you the gift of music." And the son went to play the piano just like that. Those are exceptional cases. But they are to tell us that God can do it through an impartation, through a gift.

And in the same way in one moment, the disciples' eyes were opened and then they began to reason clearly. God opened your eyes not so that you don't have to reason any more. After He imparts with all the things that arise you can see in the right order. The mind is still useful except that it's now used in God. It's the mind submitted to the law of God. And the reasoning is clearer. No matter how they tried to exercise their reasoning powers on their own - before Jesus touched them and after Jesus touched them were like day and night. The difference was very great. And on both sides, there were reasoning but when Jesus touched of the mind, their reasoning became clearer and greater.

*Eph. 1:17 that God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened that you may know what is the hope of His*

*calling, what are the riches of His glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe.*

But how does this all take place? God gives the spirit of wisdom and revelation then the eyes of our understanding are touched. And then only we know. If I take this verse literally, it means that if the eyes are not opened then there is no knowing. There are two words that we want to focus on. First, he says that *the eyes of your understanding being enlightened* and then the other is *you may know*. The enlightenment comes first.

Now the enlightenment is what we call the touch of the mind. Have you ever struggled sometimes to convince people, try to tell people what is right and what is wrong? And you find it doesn't work. That is why the power of the Spirit and prayer is important. It is not you and I that can change people. We cannot change people by scolding alone. We cannot change people by trying to convince them, by reasoning. It is something deeper than human words and human vocabulary. It is the Spirit of God that works in everyone of us. And that lights up a person that when you say those words somehow the Spirit has already touched them and then the understanding. So the Holy Spirit is involved in bringing everyone to God. No man comes to God except by the Spirit of God. And no man can know God except by the Spirit of God. No one can persuade another man to believe. The choice to believe belongs to man. But the ability to see comes from the Holy Spirit. That is where our prayers play a role. My friends, it is our prayers that change people more than our words or our reasoning. So the next time you are praying for somebody to change don't just tell them to change. Don't just force them to change. Sometimes it could be a mother struggling to change a rebellious child. The key, somehow in your little son, he needs to see something on his inside. They need a revelation of God on their inside, and a touch of their mind. The moment they are touched, they see clearly. You don't have to tell them what is right and wrong. They know what is right and wrong. That's how powerful the touch of the mind is. And that's what we are talking about. The Spirit of God on your inside will produce the touch of the mind that will cause a transformation.

*Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.* There words here refer to the mind. The touch of the mind occurs progressively. In other words, God doesn't just touch your mind and instantly your mind is permanently and perfectly changed.

No, it occurs by degrees. Just like the Ephesians already are born again, baptized in the Spirit have a greater understanding of God than before they were born again but yet Paul still prays for them for the Spirit to still touch their mind.

There are many touches that we receive. Not just one touch. And each touch is important. As we learn how to yield to God and allow God to touch our mind and to touch our spirit and touch our mind, we will be able to progress from glory to glory, from grace to grace and be transformed. You can believe God for that.

How will the mind be touched? What is this mind like? The mind is touched by an impartation of the mind of Christ. Christ did not just come to give us His Spirit. He came to give us His wisdom, His mind. How wonderful it is to have the mind of Christ. He didn't come to just give His Spirit to us. He came to give us His mind. But there is a quality to the mind of Christ that we must remember. There are two forces that need to be married together. One is the sense of totally unworthiness. The other is the sense of conviction and authority in Him. What do I mean by unworthiness? You see the touch on the mind produces certain things and you know what the correct mind is. Like the prodigal son, you notice how he talked and how he reasoned. There must be these two senses. First is a sense of complete nothingness and unworthiness. Without God, we are nothing. The other is with God you can do everything God wants you to do. Now both must be strong for Him to work.

In Lk. 15 when the prodigal son was touched in verse 19 *I am no longer worthy to be called your son*. That is humility. Now the prodigal son has a humble mind. We have to humble ourselves in God. Remember I shared about the gift of righteousness, it's no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. The only way that you can be successful is to realize that if you live life by yourself you can never make it and that in yourself without Jesus you are the most horrible wretch. As long as we think that we are very good, we will depend on ourselves. We are not good in ourselves. We are good only with Jesus inside us. Without Jesus, we will be the seed of the devil, accustomed to sin. We may not have sinned like many criminals have. But we are all sinners in His sight.

There must be a humble realization that we are the branches and He is the vine. The branch without the vine is good for nothing. It is useless, and destined only for the fire to consume them. So there is a sense of humility, a sense of knowing

that no matter how the world admire your ability or your talent you must see yourself as nothing without Jesus.

The other aspect is to see that everything good in our life, everything wonderful in our life, everything marvelous, everything capable, belongs to Him and not to us. And we give Him all the glory, the worship and love.

So, these two forces must marry in the mind. One is the sense of total humility until we realize that we are just horrible without Jesus. Some people think themselves OK without Jesus. They have not touched on this realm yet. They are only living partially by God's help and partially by their ability. If you really want to live by the power of God, by the Holy Spirit, by Christ living in you, you must reach this stage of total unworthiness, until we cannot even acknowledge every good in our life. We acknowledge that they came from Him. Then the other side is to acknowledge that in God, everything is wonderful, great and marvelous since all good things comes from His hands and not ours. And the sense of authority knowing it is Jesus that is doing it through us now.

Let me point to the fact that it's the mind of Christ that touches the mind of humility. Phil. 2:5 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. (The mind of Christ that He is imparting.) 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 bondservant, 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.*

*Let this mind be in you* is the mind of humility. Today while you are sitting in this place and hearing these words, do you acknowledge that everything about your life from the time you were born nothing good dwells in you? If there was any goodness, it was because the grace of God and the gift of God were working in you. Without Him, you would be a wretch. But in His amazing grace, you can be a saint. That is the humble mind of Christ.

Now with that we can explore Romans 12 in a deeper way. There is a play on Greek word in verse 2 where in my translation it says *for I say through the grace given to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought,*

*but to think soberly as God has dealt with each one a measure of faith.*

Even in the English translation he says *don't think your own thought*. Don't think above what you are. Realize that we are nothing. You can only think in terms of what God has given. That is, it's the grace of God. That is the gift of God. Everything about us that can be good, marvelous and wonderful is His gift, we take no credit for it. We need to be able to give it all to Him. And when you have this attitude Jesus can live in your life more powerfully. The power of the Spirit can flow through you mightily. It is not that Christ doesn't want to live through us. It is that every time you live for yourself He withdraws. But when you allow Him to live through you He comes forth.

Now there is a play on Greek words here that I like to read to you.

Rom. 12:3 *For I say, through the grace which is given to me, to everyone that is among you, not to think of himself more highly (hupselophroneo, that is the Greek word for high minded) than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

*Hupselophroneo*, the *phroneo* part is the same word for mind as used in Romans 8. Now he says don't be *hupselophroneo* means to be high-minded. Don't let the mind think highly of itself.

Four times the word *phroneo* is used in different forms. The first time it occurs, it says don't be high-minded, don't be *hupselophroneo*. *Hupselo* means above or high. *Phroneo* means mind, so *hupselophroneo* high minded. Don't be high-minded in your minding, in your *phroneo* he says.

Then he says but you must *sophroneo*, that is, you must be sober minded. This is a different Greek word here *sophron*, from *sozo*, "to save" with *phren*, "the mind". And many people look at the word sober minded as serious minded. No, it doesn't just mean serious mindedness. It means sound mind, healthy mind, a wholesome mind, *sophroneo*. Say, "Be *sophroneo* and don't be *hupselophroneo*."

So there is a play on Greek words. One on side is *hupselophroneo*, be high minded or think highly than you ought to think. That is the mind that functions without God. But let your mind function in God *as sophroneo*, a sound mind, a healthy mind, a mind that regards itself according to the grace of God. And everything that we are is the grace of God.

Now the word *sophroneo* is powerful word used all over in the writings of Paul. He tells us in the book of II Tim. 1:7 in his various usage. Now by various usages, it means that the ending can be slightly different. *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (sophronismos, which is sophroneo)*. This is the type of mind that we must have. God has given a sound mind. This is a mind that is humble before God, a mind that is submitted to God, yielded to God, and always drawing for understanding from God. And we acknowledge this fact that unless God reveals we cannot see or understand. And truth is revealed progressively. We cannot see everything at once. It is too huge and big for us. But God reveals truth progressively. And with each revelation, it changes us. It transforms us. And some of us ask, "Why doesn't God just reveal everything and we are instantly transformed to His absolute perfection?" Our physical body will die if He does it. It's too powerful. So to cater to the change of our soul He reveals one leaf at a time like peeling an onion. Every time there is one layer peeled, your tears come. Every time He peels, you cry because you are touched and you see more things in yourself than the prodigal son sees. More things to change, more things to transform, more things that are not perfected yet, until we become like Him.

He gave us His *sophronismos*, a sound mind. Now this sound mind is a requirement and it's the same Greek word used in the book of Timothy and Titus when he says that elders and deacons must be sober minded. They must have this kind of mind. A mind that is humble, not thinking about themselves about the gifts and that applies to all ministers. And that applies to every professional. No matter how recognized you are, what great reputation you have achieved, remember this: humble your mind. In God's sight everything that you are is not achievable if its not God's gift in your life. And we must always walk with that attitude of mind that its God's gift operating through us; that we have nothing to boast because without God we are all absolutely worthless.

*Sophroneo* occurs five six times in several verses of Titus chapter 2 and that makes

it very important to look at that verse to show you how it ties up to righteousness because unless *sophroneo* comes the outward righteousness doesn't come yet. You know you could be inwardly righteous because the gift of righteousness is in you. But for it to come out you need that touch of the mind of Christ so that it changes your thinking. Believe me it is such a powerful revelation. If right now anywhere you are, in any area of your life, if you could have a touch of the mind you will come to yourself. You could see things the way God sees and that will change you. It can cause your habits to just fall off you. It could be any habit. It could be a habit that clings to you and causes you to be in a sense unrighteous for thirty years. It could be an old habit that keeps on pulling you into that bondage of sin. And you don't understand how it is operating. But when your mind is touched like the prodigal son's, suddenly you see yourself for who you are. Suddenly you see the right picture. Suddenly you see the truth of where this false energy is coming from. In one second, it can remove thirty years bondage. Just by one touch in the mind.

In Titus chapter 2 it says here all the different forms of the word *sophroneo* in verse 2 *That the older man be sober minded (sophroneo), reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience.*

Now he is talking about the elderly folks. It can be that because they have a measure of *sophroneo* in them. Sometimes you see little children they are just in a hurry. Whenever we get in the car for long trips, at the beginning there is excitement. The children come into the car and settle down. Half an hour later, they cry, "Papa when are we going to reach the place?" The journey may be four hours, and already they are asking when we are going to reach. Then the next half an hour or so they say, "Are we there yet?" If the journey is too long and you don't break journey from half an hour it becomes every fifteen minutes. After two hours, they will ask, "How long more?" But we adults know they are children so we can handle them. We don't lose our temper. We don't beat them up and scold them, "Why are you asking this question? Plaster your mouth until we reach there." We don't do thing like that because we are adults. We know that these are natural.

Sunday School teaching is a different style. When you deal with children, you have to use a different approach. You cannot use the lecture method for three hours. When you teach Sunday School, your hands must flap like a chicken. We can be patient with children because we know we are more experienced and we

know how long it takes.

Or sometimes it could be a younger man with an older man. The older man is more experienced and while driving past a lake, someone cries out, "Help, help." And the younger man is not a good swimmer but the older man is a champion swimmer. The younger man says, "Go help him." The older man doesn't do anything. That person is struggling. And finally when the struggle is more subdued and it looks like that is the last breath he has, this younger man is scolding the older man, "You call yourself a swimmer?" The older man knows that if he jumps in too early, he may drown because the struggling man may drag him down into the water as well. Instead of one person dying, two would die that day. So the older man is waiting till the person is not struggling because no matter how good a swimmer you are, that desperate person may grab you and just pull you down. But the swimmer says, "Wait." And he waits until the right moment before diving in and pulling him ashore. Finally, he explains to the young man. If he went in earlier, he would have died. But the young man doesn't know because of his inexperience. You see the experience gives the person the difference, the patience.

Sometimes you play chess you can easily notice the inexperienced players straightaway by the way they play the attacking game. The experienced player wipes everything the opponent has, one by one. You don't just attack. You must know what you must do to build up your defenses first. The same is true when you want to build a building. The blueprint must come first. If the blueprint doesn't come first, it is going to be messy.

So that is *sophroneo*. That is the experience to know how to wait on God for the wisdom of God to come forth. In verse 4 the older women that they *sophonizo* the young women. They impart that kind of mind to the younger women, teach them, share with them, so that they know how to behave to love their husbands. In verse 4 the older women teach the younger women how to love their husbands.

As a pastor and counselor to many people, sometimes a newly married couple has their first quarrel in their second year. It is the first time the husband raises his voice. Never before in their four years of courtship, never before in the one and the half years of honeymoon, it so happened one day the husband raised his

voice for the first time in his life. The wife cries, "Woe is me, help somebody, help." That's only the beginning. In the world, they call it the five-year itch or ten-year itch etc. I don't know what kind of itch they are talking about. But the longer you are married the more you can harmonize. But the more recent you are in the marriage you got more things to harmonize. When your marriage gets difficult after five years, hang in there and don't give up. And after another five more years you will be so mellowed that you will quarrel in different way. You quarrel by looking at your husband's eyes. Then you know the husband disapproves. You become more experienced with each other. It's important to hang in there.

That *sophroneo* is that kind of maturity that comes in your thinking. And there is a maturing and humbling process that comes. In verse 5 to teach them to be *sophroneo*, that is to have the *sophroneo* the new mind, the sound mind, good homemakers, obedient to their husbands, that the Word of God may not be blasphemed.

The young men also got it here in verse 6, *Likewise exhort the young men*. So you got the old men, young men, older women, young women, so everyone is covered. *Likewise exhort the young men to be sophroneo*, to be sound minded.

So, this kind of mind depends on God. What we are talking about is a mind that depends on God. A mind that seeks understanding from God and not to struggle to understand. Remember understanding and reasoning will flow like a river. We just need the light from God. And the light comes progressively.

Finally, Paul uses the same word again in verse 12, *Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly (sophronos), righteously and godly in the present age*.

You notice that *sophronos* is followed by righteousness and godliness. It ties back to righteousness. When we have this mind of Christ that is imparted into our hearts and touches our minds, suddenly clarity comes. Now some things can be explained and it can be imparted like in the case of the older women teaching the younger women. But some things need the direct impartation of the Spirit to reveal revelation and understanding. In some things, no matter how you give ten

thousand explanations, it wouldn't help. Only the Spirit of God can reveal them to our mind and we understand clearly. It just strikes you. If you examine it, the thinking process functions that way. It's like something lighting a bulb inside. You see something clearly then your reasoning becomes very clear. And that process is the work of righteousness inside. The force of righteousness rises out from our inside and it comes forth until God touches us. And then by the renewal of the mind *metamorphoomai* the transformation of the mind takes place.

Finally Eph. 4:17 *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind.*

See their mind is working but its futile, going round and round but never coming to an answer. You read more about it in Romans chapter 1 and 2. how God gave them up to a debased mind, a reprobate mind, a mind that cannot glorify God, having their understanding being darkened being alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their hearts. So they were cut off from the life of God. The mind stops flowing.

Now when you link back to the life of God, righteousness comes in your life. Look at verse 22-23 *that you put off concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*

Now you understand what that verse means. The spirit of your mind means the spirit from your inside touches your mind and gives clarity that you never had before. And it comes in a powerful way. And it applies even to the secular profession. You could be struggling about a business problem. And all your thinking doesn't work. When you pray and ask God for wisdom, and as you wait on God, God gives you the wisdom. When it comes, in a split second, you can see everything fits together. It can be in the ministry. It can be in any area. That is the new way that we live. Some people ask me, "How can you be doing many things with so much energy coming out?" I tell them that is because I am not depending on myself. I am depending on God. Every time you pray and seek God, God keeps giving a flow of ideas. Every time you get stuck you pray, "God give me wisdom in this area and give me the mind of Christ in this area. What is the mind of Christ in this area?" And you wait on God. Some times the answer comes immediately. Sometimes it comes in one week's time. Sometimes in a few months

or sometimes one year. But it will surely come. And sometimes we even must fast, pray and humble ourselves to wait on God for that enlightenment.

You see I have this discipline. I will not try to reason until the light comes. But when the light comes then I will have enough light to start reasoning correctly. I would choose not to reason, not to think of something until the light has come. And it is a different approach in life. In life, people reason first. No. You get all problems together and you pray. You wait on God. Sometimes the reason doesn't come and people ask, "What is the answer?" No word from the Lord. Just wait until God's wisdom comes and touches us and your mind starts functioning. And you began to see everything in its proper place.

So, we summarize in giving you some of the keys in this waiting process by looking at Rom. 1. We look at the negative and the positive would be the truth. How people were shut out from the flow of the river of God's wisdom. Remember just now in Eph. 4 we read that the Gentiles were futile in their minds. Here in Rom. 1: 20-22 explain how they became futile. *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.*

Now inside here is the key. It talked the negative side of how people can become futile in their mind but inside is the key. How did they become that way? God never created man that way. Man was created to be in the image of God. But it was twisted away and God wants to restore it to the way God wants it. Two things - they did not glorify Him as God, nor were they thankful. The positive key would be worship and thanksgiving. Every time your heart and your mind are not in an attitude of worship and thankfulness don't try to think. It could be having the wrong thoughts. It will never be the mind of Christ. It will be your own carnal mind. Only when your mind is in an attitude of thankfulness and worship can you be tapping on the creative river of God. And I made it a point to always give thanks in everything. In that way, I would have a constant river of praise and worship. Think about it. Is there any struggle in the business world or any area that you cannot solve? May be you did it in an attitude of complaining and murmuring. May be you were having anger in your heart. And may be you were not in a worship mood. If that is so please, drop all your tools, worship God

and give thanks. Until and unless you can give thanks to God and worship God, your mind will be wasting energy.

I believe in good thinking. I am not against it. I love to think. But I know what its limits are. And as long as there is no river of thanksgiving, praise, and worship that is coming I will shut my mind off. I say, "Mind, keep quiet, let the river of thanksgiving and praise come." And when it comes then only is the mind of Christ operating in your life. Every one of us has the mind of Christ. And as the river of praise comes the mind of Christ starts operating. When you do not glorify God, do not acknowledge that He is your God, you are His creation and depend on Him, when you are not grateful for all that He has given you, you actually lose the mind of Christ. All of us can be grateful to God. No matter what place you are in life there are always things you can thank God for. When you lose those things, you are back to your old carnal mind. We must guard thankfulness, praise, and worship in our hearts. Guard them and do not let anything steal them. Don't let anything pull your mind into complaining, murmuring, any wrong thought, negative thought about people, never because all those thinking would be wrong thinking. But always be thankful for everything around you. Even the people you find hard to relate you can find something to thank God for. And when you began to move into thanksgiving and praise and worship the river flows and the mind of Christ starts operating. That's No. 1.

No. 2 look on further down in Rom. 1:28 *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.* Now the word debased is the word *edokime*. The word *dokime* is a word that means a document, or doctrine, something solid. So it is in a sense no doctrine, a debased mind. It says here when they did not retain the knowledge of God, God gives them up to their carnal mind.

So the opposite will be true. We need to saturate ourselves with the Word of Christ. And the words of Christ represent the bible. That's the second important key top tap on the mind of Christ. You must take this bible and read it day and night. Read it in whatever time you have. Meditate on some of the wonderful promises and scriptures. But read this bible until it saturate you. Let the Word of Christ dwell richly in you, Col. 3:16. And as it dwells richly in you then the knowledge of God will be retained and the mind of Christ can operate.

So we have given two little keys in the tapping into the mind of Christ, one is thanksgiving, praise, and worship. We have described earlier what the mind of Christ is like - the two senses united, one a sense of humility and nothingness without God and a sense of total completion in God meeting together.

And the second little key that we have is saturating ourselves with God's Word. We will not think of anything that is outside God's Word. We will not entertain any thoughts or philosophy that violates and contradict God's Word. When you make that a rule in your heart the mind of Christ rises strong in your life.

You may be handling anything in your life, even things that you are not trained to do, but when you tap on the mind of Christ, you can do it as well as a trained person. Anything in your life you can rely on the wisdom of God, the touch of the mind of Christ.

Now as you hang on to those two rivers, the river of the word, the river of praise and thanksgiving and worship in your waiting on God you will sense the light coming and it will touch you from time to time. Every time it touches you, you can see clearly what to do in your business, you see what to do now in your ministry, then you move on, you obey. Then you keep that river of praise and worship. I observed people in the ministry and how they can progress. Ministry can be blessed. God can promote you. But if at anytime you stop being thankful and worshipful and giving praise to God that's when growth also stop. It is the same in the business world. God could be blessing you. With more blessings, there are more responsibilities. With more responsibilities, there are more anxieties and concerns that fall on your shoulders. And if you don't learn how to give thanks and give praise to God you will block the very source of that blessing and you cannot continue. But if you want to grow from glory to glory, and grace to grace, until Jesus comes and grow stronger and stronger by the day, then you must flow with these two rivers and allow God to touch your mind and all the wisdom you need in life is available for you.

