Developing the Mind of Christ

Series: No More Stinking Thinking

Sermon #2

1 Corinthians 2:9-16 (NKJV) (9) But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (10) But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (11) 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. (12) 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. (13) These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (14) 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. (15) But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. (16) For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Can I ask you what goes through your minds most days? How is your thought life?

Are you maintaining a positive, strong, joyful, pure perspective in the inner sanctuary of your mind, thinking, and self-talk? OR have you found yourself becoming more and more inflicted with "Stinkin' Thinkin'?" Do you need a checkup from the neck up?

Are your private thoughts primarily thoughts of:
● Praise
● Purity
● Righteousness
● Spiritual thoughts
● Victorious thoughts

Or are you discovering that many of your private thoughts are unholy and unhealthy. Thoughts of:

● Worry
● Fear
● Anxiety
● Criticism
● Thoughts of Vengeance, Anger and Hatred
● Discouraging thoughts
● Depressive thoughts
● Self-depreciating thoughts

You are the product of your thinking because it says in the Bible, "As a man thinks in his heart, so....is he." You are the product of your thoughts.

The word of God tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:13-16 that if you are born again, saved, and forgiven of your sins then you have the mind of Christ. I am convinced that most of what we do, is done out of habit rather than something done because we thought it through.
There is a battle going on for the control of our minds. And whoever, or whatever wins this battle for control in our thought life will ultimately win control of our entire life. Part of the process of developing our spiritual life is to bring our “thought life” into perfect obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, so that we are no longer thinking:

- Our thoughts
- The world's thoughts
- Satan's thoughts
- Thoughts that tear us down
- Thoughts that discourage and depress us

But we are to grow consistently in “Thinking Thoughts that are in line with the word and will of God.”

I have some good news to share with you today. You do not have to be controlled by negative, critical, depressive, and discouraging thoughts. I want to share with you some wonderful news from the word of God. When we got saved, God took up residence in our lives and because we are filled with the Holy Ghost we now have “the mind of Christ”, therefore our lives are to be controlled by Godly thoughts.

So, I want to help you see how important your “thought life” is, and help you understand how to “Think Godly Thoughts,” because as a Holy Ghost filled Saint of God you and I are to have the Mind of Christ.

Would you take a close look at V. 16 once again? Did you see what it said?

1 Cor 2:16 “For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
Do you believe that verse of scripture? The Bible says, “we have, we possess the mind of Christ.”

The Word of God has a lot to say about our minds and our thought life. Just listen to a few of the many verses I discovered that speak to us about our minds and thought life.

**Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)** (3) You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

**Rom. 12:2** “Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind …”

**Rom. 8:6** “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

**Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)** (2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

**1 Peter 1:14 (NLT)** (14) So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

**1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV)** (10) Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

**2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)** (7) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Our thought life is the most private and personal part of our entire lives. No other person knows our thoughts...By the way, aren't you glad they don’t?
How would you like for everyone to know exactly what you're thinking right this very moment?

While our thoughts are hidden from the people around us none of our thoughts are hidden from God? God knows everything we think. Every thought that passes through our mind, God knows about it. He knows every secret thought.

David told his son Solomon, **1 Chron. 28:9** "Acknowledge the God of your Father, and serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind every thought."

It is my prayer that every one of us would be committed to, A Spirit-controlled thought life. Committed to Developing the mind of Christ. Committed to Thinking the thoughts of God that develops the character of God within us.

It does not matter how smart a person is, if they do not learn to think spiritually and develop the mind of Christ...they are going to think some pretty stupid thoughts and develop some stupid ideas.

**1 Cor 2:14** The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I have met some smart people who believe some stupid things. Do you know there are some intelligent people who actually believe in a thing called Evolution? Here is what evolutionists say:

"**NOTHING + TIME = LIFE**"

Evolution says that eons of ages ago there was a massive explosion. No one knows where the elements came from that were involved in the
explosion. And no one knows what caused the explosion. But this theoretical, unexplainable explosion, set off a random series of events that eventually developed into a very precise, detailed, perfectly balanced universe and millions and millions of diverse, unique life forms.

THAT'S JUST PLAIN STUPID!!

I want to share with you several truths related to your mind and your thought life that I discovered in the scripture.

I. TRUTHS CONCERNING OUR MIND:

1) Most of the battles in our lives are won or lost in our MIND.

ROMANS 7:21-23 21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

● Defeat or victory is determined almost always in your mind.

● Your battles with sin and Satan are won or lost in your mind.

● Sin never begins as an action...it begins as a thought. A thought that is a deceptive lie of Satan. A thought that you entertain, retain, and eventually flesh out in action.

Satan plants a seed thought in our minds hoping that it will find a resting place in order to germinate and grow to produce a tree of destructive thoughts that will destroy our lives.

This reminds me of a story that I once read about a man on a diet. He was on his way to work one morning when the thought occurred to him, “wouldn't it
be great to have a few doughnuts?” As he drove down the road entertaining this thought he began to reason with Himsself: “I've done good on this diet. I have lost a few pounds. I have controlled my eating habits. I deserve a treat today. Then he prayed as he saw the doughnut store, “Lord if you don't want me to have any doughnuts don't let there be a parking place at the store.” Sure enough there was a parking place right by the front door on the seventh time around.

We do not need to allow ourselves to entertain any “stinking thinking.” It will lead eventually to bad behavior.

2) Any true-life change begins with a transformed Mind.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Since most battles in life are won or lost in your mind, the key then to any true-life change is to have a mind that has been and is still in the process of being transformed by the power of God's word and His Spirit. The word “transformed” in Romans 12:2 comes from the word “Metamorphosis.” We need a metamorphosis in our thinking if we want any true-life change.

To change any habits or behaviors in our lives, we begin by letting God change our minds and thinking. Our minds are being acted upon by the Holy Ghost to bring it into conformity with the will and word of God. The mind is not transforming itself- but is being transformed by the “renewing” processes of the Holy Spirit. (Renewal means to renovate, reshape, or refashion). We need the Holy Spirit to renew, renovate, reshape and refashion those evil, negative thought patterns that we have developed in our mind.

Transformation of the mind is a work of the Holy Spirit.
Many of us have a transformation every time we get behind the steering wheel of a car.

We need to have the mind of Christ operating in us in every:

- Decision we make.
- In Every Attitude we embrace.
- In Every Prayer we pray.
- In Every Observation we make.
- In Every Belief we adopt.
- This is what it means to have the Mind of Christ.

Our problem is, we often choose to listen to Satan and the world around us, or our own selfish flesh and embrace the thoughts that are contrary to the word and will of God. Thoughts that are destructive to the Christian life.

It is important for you to live your life with a mind that has been transformed. A mind that is no longer believes Satan's lies, but believes God's truth.

4) **You must constantly choose between 2 opposing patterns of thought...FAITH and REASON.**

Faith is God's way to live and think. Reason is man's way to live and think.

The problem is Faith and Reason are often in direct conflict with each other.

This does not mean that faith is unreasonable or illogical. We do not have to “get rid our brains” to live by faith. In fact, if we had perfect, logic and reasoning abilities, we would always live-in perfect agreement with God.
Having now made these 4 biblical observations about our minds and our thought life, I want to share what God has to say about developing the mind of Christ, and thinking God's thoughts using the following outline:

**II. THE IMPORTANCE OF THINKING GOD'S THOUGHTS.**

I want us to look at how our thinking affects every area of our lives.

1. **Thinking God's thoughts affects your Perspective.**

Let me tell you something, when you stop living by reason, and start living by faith with a transformed mind, the mind of Christ, it changes your perspective on every circumstance and situation you face.

Your entire worldview will change when you have the mind of Christ and you are thinking the way God thinks.

*Genesis 45:5-8 (NKJV)*

(5) But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.  (6) For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting.  (7) And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.  (8) So now *it was* not you *who* sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

How was Joseph able to keep such a positive perspective in the face of such extreme adversity and injustice? He had the mind of Christ. He was thinking God's thoughts.

If you can learn to think God's thoughts, it will give you a brand new, victorious, perspective on EVERYTHING!
2. Thinking God's thoughts affects your Personality.

The thought patterns you adopt are what eventually shapes and molds your personality. If we adopt thought patterns from the world, Satan, or our own self-centered desires, they will mold our personalities into a selfish, difficult personality...in fact, all harmful personality quirks are the result of ungodly thought patterns.

And since some of us do not have a godly perspective, we view every inconvenience and interruption of our plans as an injustice and an enemy. As a result, we have become negative, hostile, and angry in our personality.

On the other hand, when we begin to think God's thoughts, and adopt God's perspective on life...it molds our personality into the likeness of Jesus Christ Himself.

II Cor. 5:17 says, “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away, behold all things have become brand new.”

I am convinced, the more we can think like Jesus—the more we will act like Him. Would you agree that thinking Christ's thoughts, would help to sweeten some of our attitudes and change our temperament?

3. Thinking God's thoughts affects your Priorities.

When you have the mind of Christ, He begins to re-order your life. First things will really become first.

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

But the order will be reversed in your life without the mind of Christ.” Right here is why so many Christians have such distorted priorities, and you find
Christian men and women: Sacrificing their marriages and children on the altar of career success.

Consumed with personal debt and living in bondage to their lifestyle and creditors.

Living lives that are busy, but spiritually barren.

I'm telling you, many, maybe most of us, desperately need the Lord Jesus to re-order our priorities by renewing our minds.

We have bought in on values, ideals, and thought patterns that are imposed on us by an evil world system, and not the Lord Jesus.

4. **Thinking God's thoughts affects your Praying.**

Do you know that we cannot pray effectively apart from the Holy Spirit and the mind of Christ? This is exactly why much of our praying is powerless. Therefore, many of our prayers go unanswered.

**James 4:3** You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts.

Much of our praying is not praying with the mind of Christ, but it is flesh-driven praying.

Do you know how you can have every prayer answered exactly as you pray it? Pray with the mind of Christ, under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

**ROMANS 8:26-27** (26) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (27) And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.
When you pray with the mind of Christ:

- You pray With God's glory as your ultimate desire.
- You pray from an eternal perspective, rather than temporal.
- You pray with spiritual priorities, rather than material.

This is exactly what it means to pray in Jesus' name. The name of Jesus is not just a super password to get what you want from God. Praying in Jesus' name means praying in line with Christ's character and perfect will. Praying in Jesus' name means praying from a position of unity, love, and agreement with Jesus. Praying in Jesus' name means praying with the mind of Christ, as you stand still in a relationship of union, love, and harmony with Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion of Sermon:** I want to stop here and pick this up again next week. I want us to stop and right now see if we can hear what God may be saying to us in response to this message. Are we willing to submit our minds entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ right now.

I wonder how many of us would confess that we are losing a lot of spiritual battles in our minds? How many of us are willing to confess our life is being paralyzed by:

- Negative thinking.
- Critical thoughts.
- Depressive thoughts.
- Discouraging thoughts.
- Angry and Hostile thoughts.
Are we willing to admit today, that much of what we think about ourselves, God, and other people has been influenced more by traumatic, painful experiences in our past, than by the Holy Spirit today?

Are we still living with the mental anguish of painful experiences from our past?

Would you like to have the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ today? Here is how our minds can be set free from bondage of Stinking Thinking today:

Begin with accepting the Lord Jesus into your heart and life.

Allow the Mind of Christ to Rule in your Life.

Allow the Spirit of God to transform your mind by the renewing of your mind through the word of God.