

The Mind of God vs. The Mind of Man

Acquiring a Godly Perspective

- God's mind is set on being honest, faithful and consistent. If we make a promise or a commitment to someone, then we cannot turn back or waver if we want to be like God. Better not to make the vow than to make it and break it (Deut 23:21-23).

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should *change his mind*. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? – Num 23:19

- Christ did everything according to what is in the Father's heart and mind. If we want to know what God's mind is like, we have the historical Jesus to study and to emulate. He has given us the authority and the power to imitate Him.

I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is *in my heart and mind*. I will firmly establish his house, and he will minister before my anointed one always. – 1Sam 2:35

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Eph. 5:1

Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I am sending you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will *remind you* of my *way of life* in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. 1Cor. 4:16

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1

- If we want to emulate Christ, we must first know him. We cannot know God completely, but we can know Christ, because that's why he came: to reveal his Father to us. The only "know" that will suffice is the experiential "know" in which we have done what Christ commanded. That's the point at which we truly understand what he wanted us to learn. ***We put it into practice...***

No one can *come to me* unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: "They will all be taught by God." Everyone who *listens* to the Father and *learns* from him comes to me. John 6:44-45

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who *comes to me* and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock." Luke 6:46-48

"Therefore everyone who *hears* these words of mine and *puts them into practice* is like a wise man who built his house on the rock... But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand." Matt. 7:24-26

"I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood **has eternal life**, and I will raise him up at the last day. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him." John 6:53-55

Now this is eternal life: that they may *know* you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3

- Obedience to God's Law of Love, the Law of the Spirit, is not bondage to a different master. It is freedom! It's what God had in mind for us from the beginning.

I will always obey your law, for ever and ever. *I will walk about in freedom*, for I have sought out your precepts. I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in your commands because I love them. I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love, and I meditate on your decrees. Psa 119:44-48

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does. – James 1:25

- If we do what is right in God’s sight, He *will* reward us, even when our obedience is partial.

They demolished the sacred stone of Baal and tore down the temple of Baal, and people have used it for a latrine to this day. So Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel. However, he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit – the worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan. The LORD said to Jehu, “Because you have done well in accomplishing what is *right in my eyes* and have done to the house of Ahab *all I had in mind to do*, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.” – 2Kng 10:27-30

- What we do for God we ought to do willingly, not grudgingly. Are your motives pure?

“And you, my son Solomon, 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 the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. – 1Chr 28:9

- What we have in mind to accomplish for God, comes from God. He *will* bless it. Our hopes and dreams for the future come from God. He didn’t give them just to tease us...

He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had *put in his mind* for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things. – 1Chr 28:12

- In the Godhead there is complete unity of purpose. We need to pursue that and maintain it in our family and church life. Unity comes from God. We can pray for it.

Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them *unity of mind* to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the LORD. – 2Chr 30:12

All the believers were *one in heart and mind*. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. – Act 4:32

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly *united in mind and thought*. – 1Cor 1:10

- Wisdom and understanding come from God. We can get the knowledge of His will from His Word; but wisdom comes to us only when we act it out. Study, pray, and then *act*. When you act, expect failure sometimes; it is one means by which we become wise.

Who endowed the heart with wisdom or gave *understanding to the mind*? – Job 38:36

A wise son *heeds* his father’s instruction... wisdom is found in those who *take* advice... Prov. 13:1,10

The rod of correction imparts wisdom. Prov. 29:15

- Everything in this life comes and goes. In the end there is only one course of action: Fear God and keep His commandments. “Fear of God” is a healthy respect for the One who holds your life in His

hands. It acknowledges that God is always beside you, watching and listening. Think and behave accordingly.

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the *whole duty of man*. – Ecc 12:13

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?... How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!... When I awake, I am still with you. Psa 139:7,17

- When we understand what God has done for us, it brings peace to our soul. But when we are sometimes distracted by the temporary things of the world, we lose sight of our eternal destiny and lose our peace. Trusting God cannot be a sometime thing.

You will keep in perfect peace him whose *mind is steadfast*, because he trusts in you. – Isa 26:3

- Your mind is always busy with something. What is the focus of your thoughts? If your focus is on Godly things and Godly goals, then you can be used by God. You can be His means to provide shelter, sustenance and comfort to a dying world. You can answer His call to whom He can send by saying, “Here I am, Lord. Send me!” And He’ll send you somewhere exotic, like next door to your neighbor or the next room to your children. We *are* the fragrance of Christ to the world *if we abide in Him*...

See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. *The mind of the rash* will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear.

No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected. For the fool speaks folly, *his mind is busy with evil*: He practices ungodliness and spreads error concerning the LORD; the hungry he leaves empty and from the thirsty he withholds water. The scoundrel’s methods are wicked, he makes up evil schemes to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just. But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands. – Isa 32:1-8

- As His creatures, we will never know or understand the mind of God completely, and therefore we shouldn’t be substituting our own judgments for His. We should therefore take our counsel from God’s Word and not our own heart.

Who has understood *the mind of the LORD*, or instructed him as his counselor? – Isa 40:13

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known *the mind of the Lord*? Or who has been his counselor?” – Rom 11:33-34

However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, *no mind has conceived* what God has prepared for those who love him” – 1Cor 2:9

- God knows our mind and heart better than we do. Ask for Him to examine you. David had a heart after God’s own (his mind was in accord with God’s). David could claim he led a blameless life only because he trusted in the Lord without wavering. Again, don’t waver in your trust of God or your commitment to Him.

Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have led a blameless life; I have trusted in the LORD without wavering. Test me, O LORD, and try me, *examine my heart and my mind*; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth. – Psa 26:1-3

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? “I the LORD search the heart and *examine the mind*, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.” – Jer 17:9-10

- When we fail to abide in Christ and we go our own way in pursuit of our own goals and pleasures to the exclusion of what we have been called to, we become rebels. We are commanded to remember who God is and that He will accomplish all that is in His mind to do. Nothing will stop Him or thwart him. Not even us. Stop opposing God in your life!

“Remember this, *fix it in mind*, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. – Isa 46:8-10

- A new heaven and new earth are coming! We cannot live in the past! We can only live in the present with a steadfast hope for the future. God has it in His mind to give us every blessing and to remove from our minds every remembrance of the hardship that preceded his blessing. We will be glad and we will be a joy and a delight to God almighty. Get a smile on your face. Get some enthusiasm in your spirit! Get a skip in your walk and a gleam in your eye. God has marvelous plans for the future and you’re part of the plans!

Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “My servants will eat, but you will go hungry; my servants will drink, but you will go thirsty; my servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame. My servants will sing out of the joy of their hearts, but you will cry out from anguish of heart and wail in brokenness of spirit. You will leave your name to my chosen ones as a curse; the Sovereign LORD will put you to death, but to his servants he will give another name. Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of truth; he who takes an oath in the land will swear by the God of truth.

For the past troubles will be forgotten and hidden from my eyes. “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they *come to mind*. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. – Isa 65:13-19

- It is within our power to control our thoughts, to focus on the good and to ignore the bad in our life. It is only with this positive emphasis that we can have hope. When God has seemingly abandoned you, remember intentionally that He is faithful and He will turn His face to you. Seek Him, and wait quietly for His solution. He could have consumed you in His wrath – but He didn’t. So His love and compassion are unfathomable. Therefore don’t try to fit God’s solutions into the box of your expectations.

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I *call to mind* and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD’S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.” The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. – Lam 3:19-26

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we *take captive every thought* to make it obedient to Christ. – 2Cor 10:3-5

- Be careful what you have in your mind! Stop trying to be like the world around you. You are a sojourner here, not a permanent resident. Protect your emotional and intellectual environment. You *can* control what goes into your mind. It is the seed bed in which your spiritual mind grows. Turn off the TV. Stop reading the gossip in the newspapers. Throw away the dime-store romance novels. Avoid negative

friends and family. Don't condone negative speech. Control your tongue. Stop planting seeds of death in your speech and begin planting seeds of life. You can't do that until you cultivate the mind of Christ by nourishing it with eternal food and living water...

“You say, “We want to be like the nations, like the peoples of the world, who serve wood and stone.” But what you *have in mind* will never happen. – Eze 20:32

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:26-27

Out of the overflow of the heart [mind] the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him. Mat. 12:34

Let no unwholesome talk [that which doesn't nourish] come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. [attitude] – Eph. 4:29

Instead, be filled with the Spirit [a command; and here's how:] Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. – Eph. 5:18-21

- Fear has no place in your mind. Instead set your mind on remaining humble in the sight of God. Your prayers are heard, and they are answered – even though not in the time-frame or with the results you expected...

Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you *set your mind* to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. – Dan 10:12

- If we let our minds focus on the things the world advocates, we serve Satan and become a stumbling block to God. Be careful who you serve...

Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not *have in mind* the things of God, but the things of men.” – Mat 16:23

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not *have in mind* the things of God, but the things of men.” – Mar 8:33

- Love is an all-consuming passion – it can also be well thought out when it is Godly love. We need to think about how to correctly love God and our fellow man and then act...

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with *all your mind*.” – Mar 22:37

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with *all your mind* and with all your strength.’ – Mar 12:30

He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with *all your mind*’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” – Luk 10:27

- When we follow the Way of Christ, we may look strange to the world around us, including some of our brothers and sisters in the faith – Don't let that disturb you or keep you from the Way. They called Christ a lunatic, and yet he restored sanity to those who lost it. True insanity is the rejection of forgiveness. That's what the world does...

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is *out of his mind*."
– Mar 3:20-21

When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and *in his right mind*; and they were afraid. – Mar 5:15

When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" "You're *out of your mind*," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel." But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. – Act 12:14-16

At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are *out of your mind*, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane." – Act 26:24

If we are *out of our mind*, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. – 2Cor 5:13-20

- Worry is akin to unbelief. It is a rejection of God's trustworthiness. Make up your mind not to worry. That's a decision you can make based on who God is, who Christ is, and what they have already done for you.

But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. – Luk 21:14

Therefore [keeping your eyes on the eternal]... do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?... Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Mat. 6:25-27

- There are some things we just flat have to keep in mind. God calls us often in His Word to remember what He has done for us (as you will see later). Our response to the world's rejection of our lifestyle is to remember the way they treated Christ. We should expect that kind of treatment; it removes the shock. After all, their father is not our Father...

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. "If the world hates you, *keep in mind* that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. – Joh 15:16-21

- If we don't pursue the mind of God, we keep the sinful mind with the potential of losing sight of God. Our blessings evaporate. If we aren't growing, we're dying...

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a *depraved mind*, to do what ought not to be done. – Rom 1:28

Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. *Their mind is on earthly things.* – Phi 3:19

- We all desire something from life. Knowing what's right and doing what's right aren't always the same. When we fail to do what we know is right, it's because of our sinful desires. We need to change our desires so they match God's.

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. – Rom 7:23

Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself *in my mind* am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. – Rom 7:25

The *mind of sinful man* is death, but the *mind controlled by the Spirit* is life and peace; *the sinful mind* is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. – Rom 8:6-7

- If we remain focused on the eternal, then God's Spirit in us will likewise look to who we will become rather than who we are and He will convey that to God...

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. – Rom 8:27

- We are commanded to change, to renew our minds, to separate from the world, to be different. Only then will we be able to accept God's plan for our lives.

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. – Rom 12:2

- We are each unique in the sight of God. He has a different plan for every one of us. We cannot convince others of the rightness of what God is doing in our own life, nor should we compare ourselves with others. The only one we need to compare ourselves to is Christ, so we'll remember how far we have yet to go. Once we realize that, we can get away from judging others and focus on what God has in mind for us. Nonetheless, be sensitive to the fact that not everyone can do that – be slow to take offense and be an example...

Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully *convinced in his own mind*. – Rom 14:4-5

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, *make up your mind* not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. – Rom 14:13

The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have *the mind of Christ*. – 1Cor 2:15-16

But the man who has *settled* the matter *in his own mind*, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own *will*, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin – this man also does the right thing. – 1Cor 7:37

- Knowledge of God, worship of God, prayers to God are things of the spirit, but they are likewise things of the mind. The mind is a muscle that needs to be exercised. We can be passionate for God without abandoning our emotional or intellectual control.

For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also *pray with my mind*; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also *sing with my mind*. If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified.-1Cor 14:13-17

So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are *out of your mind*? – 1Cor 14:23

- We cannot find peace looking to the future. We can only find peace in remembering what God has done for us in the past. When you are troubled and your trust is wavering, then force yourself to **remember** what God has done for you and He will bring you peace.

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. *Remember the wonders* he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, O descendants of Israel his servant, O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, – 1Chr 16:11-15

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. *Remember the Lord*, who is great and awesome, **and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.**” – Neh 4:14

They refused to listen and *failed to remember* the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them...
– Neh 9:17

All the ends of the earth will *remember and turn to the LORD*, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, – Psa 22:27

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. My soul is downcast within me; *therefore I will remember* you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon – from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. – Psa 42:5-7

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. *On my bed I remember you*; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. – Psa 63:1-8

I remembered my songs in the night. My heart mused and my spirit inquired: “Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?” Then I thought, “To this I will appeal: the years of the right hand of the Most High.”

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds. Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. – Psa 77:6-15

But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD'S love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children – with those who keep his covenant and *remember to obey* his precepts. – Psa 103:17-18

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. *Remember the wonders* he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, O descendants of Abraham his servant, O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. *He remembers his covenant* forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.

– Psa 105:1-9

Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope. My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life. The arrogant mock me without restraint, but I do not turn from your law. *I remember your ancient laws*, O LORD, and I find comfort in them. Indignation grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken your law.

Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge. *In the night I remember your name*, O LORD, and I will keep your law. This has been my practice: I obey your precepts. You are my portion, O LORD; I have promised to obey your words. I have sought your face with all my heart; *be gracious to me according to your promise*. I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands. – Psa 119:49-60

- Trying to determine the will of God (His mind) by looking for open doors and peace of mind leaves us open to the charge of failing to make use of an opportunity to serve Him. Paul had an open door but no peace of mind, and yet he used the circumstance. If we understand the moral will of God, then we can make decisions based on wisdom rather than the winds of circumstance. If we are willing servants, God will use *any* circumstance.

I still had no *peace of mind*, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia. But thanks be to God, who always leads us in *triumphal* procession in Christ and through us spreads *everywhere* the fragrance of the knowledge of him. – 2Cor 2:13

- We cannot remain children in the Lord forever. God has called us to be mature (perfect), to be able to give a rational account of why we have the hope we do. The mind is “the eyes of the heart,” controlling what our focus is on and containing all the power of the resurrection itself when it is filled with the knowledge of God...

Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of *one mind*, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. – 2Cor 13:11

I pray also that the *eyes of your heart* may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be *head* over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. – Eph 1:18-23

- The war we wage in the world is waged on 3 fronts: within us (old vs. new self), within the Church (unity), and within society (honoring vs. dishonoring God). We need to *keep that in mind* as we pray so that we know what to pray for. We need to *keep that in mind* as we speak so the words we use are not

ineffectual (idle). We need to *keep that in mind* as we choose our activities so that we live faithfully. ***Keeping it in mind is an act of will.***

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. *With this in mind*, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. – Eph 6:17-20

- If we are to have the mind of God, we need to remain connected to the Head who is Christ. The way we do that is by remaining obedient to his commands to love God and love our fellow man. We need to love demonstrably and visibly. We need to act on love even if we don't first have the emotion to go with it. We are called to love the unlovable. If we love, we grow. If we grow, we distance ourselves from the unspiritual (sinful) mind.

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his *unspiritual mind* puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. – Col 2:18-19

- We are about the business of God, not the business of others, and God's business is about us. You cannot change other people. You can only change yourself. While God works on us internally, we need to remain aware of others externally, so they may see God at work in us and praise Him.

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to *mind your own business* and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. – 1Thes 4:11-12

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. – Mat 5:16

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. – 1Pe 2:12^{NIV}

- We need to keep in mind the fact that there are those who belong to God and those who don't. We don't need to pray for the damnation of those who oppose us – they've accomplished that for themselves. But we do need to pray for each other that God's purposes would be fulfilled in us to God's glory.

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. *With this in mind*, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. – 2Thes 1:8-12

- Sound instruction in the doctrines of God is the path from the corrupt mind to the mind of God. Where there is no sound instruction, the mind remains corrupt.

If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and arguments that result in envy, quarreling, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of *corrupt mind*, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. – 1Tim 6:5

- When we think that God is taking too long to bring about the new heaven and the new earth, we need to call to mind and hold onto the thought that His patience means our salvation – there’s yet another day to get the work done and the field harvested.

But in keeping with his promise *we are looking forward* to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. *Bear in mind* that **our Lord’s patience means salvation**, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. – 2Pet 3:13-15

Conclusions

Acquiring the mind of God is a matter of attitude. Our will alone *cannot* change us or enable us to conform to God’s will. It is inferior, and insufficient. It wants different things than what God wants. But what we *can* do is get an attitude adjustment. We can begin to desire what God desires. When that happens, our attitude changes, and *the will is freed to pursue the things of God*. The way we get a different set of desires is by focusing on the eternal instead of the temporary in our life. That comes by studying God’s word. When we study, we become assured that God does intend our good, and we see the proof of that in Christ’s atoning sacrifice. That stimulates thanksgiving in us, and that thankful attitude is the foundation for hope and for love. With thanksgiving comes loving action, and the action confirms the hope *within* us, demonstrating the love of God to those *around* us. When we do that, acting out of love and thanksgiving, we glorify God and we reveal Him to the world. *They see Christ in us*. That affirms in us that we are indeed the children of God, and that all of His plans for us are coming to completion.