



LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION (5) The Mindset of a Christian

Luke 9:51, "Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem." Jesus made up his mind that it was time.

Having examined ourselves by noting several spiritual indicators, today we want to address the mindset of a Christian. When we talk about attitudes, it is about the way we think and our mindset.

I. What is the Christian's Mind?

- a. Mind, 1. the element, part, substance, or process that reasons, thinks, feels, wills, perceives, judges, etc. ...3. intellect or understanding, as distinguished from the faculties of feeling and willing; intelligence. (www.dictionary.com, Random House Dictionary)
- b. In NT the word "mind" is associated with thought, reason, will (& willingness, desire), mindset, remembrance, judgment, etc.
- c. The will of a Christian. The will of a Christian is to be what he ought to be. The heart of a Christian is our intellect, will, desire, feelings, conscience and emotions. That which makes us who we are within. All these things are associated with our **mind** and the way we think.
- d. What is a mindset? An attitude, disposition or mood. 2. An intention or inclination. One who thinks a certain way, usually based upon varying circumstances. As Christians, consider: **Romans 12:16, Philippians 2:2, 2:5**, let this mind be in you which was also in Christ
- e. Our mindset affects how we approach our study of scripture, process instructions, etc. It determines what we become and affects every aspect of our lives.

II. The Bible and the mind

- a. **Matthew 22:37**, Love God with all you heart, soul and mind.
- b. **Philippians 2:3** - lowliness of mind, **Philippians 2:5**, let *this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus*, **Romans 8:5-9**, "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace..."; **Revelation 2:23**, "I am He who searches the minds and hearts."
- c. Other words and passages associated with our mind.
 1. **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** - bringing every **thought** into captivity, **Proverbs 23:7, Titus 1:15**
 2. **Philippians 4:8**, "**Meditate on these things**" or "think on these things"
 3. **Hebrews 4:12**, the word of God is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
 4. **Psalms 26:2**, "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart."
 5. **2 Corinthians 7:9, Acts 8:22** –repentance, repent (μετανοέω, metanoēō) literally means, "to change one's mind" (Thayer).

III. Make up your mind

- a. To achieve perfection/maturity in our spiritual lives, begins with making up our minds.
- b. **Do you want to be made well?** In *John 5:6* – why did Jesus ask this? Being healed meant changing his manner of life. Was the paralytic willing to accept that change? As Christians, we are reminded that serving God means real change in our lives. Consider **Romans 6** – the whole chapter is about this commitment. Unless we make up our minds, we will NOT reach the maturity God expects of us.
- c. **1 Peter 1:13**, Gird up the loins of your mind; **Colossians 3:1-2**, "Set your mind on things above".
- d. **CHOOSE who you are going to serve!** Cf. Joshua 24:15
- e. **Do we need to declare war on the devil?** He is the cause of your mediocrity. He is the reason your mind is not made up, etc. We need to reach that point where we say, "NO MORE!!!!" Like our Lord, we need to say, "GET BEHIND ME SATAN!" and MEAN IT!

IV. Renewing the mind

- a. Reaching toward maturity, in time we might find ourselves in a rut. Then it is time to REFOCUS our direction. Renew the mind. Renewal means to revitalize or refresh
- b. **Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Ephesians 4:23 (20-24)** – CHANGE begins with the mind!

As we strive to go on to perfection, it will begin with a renewed mindset **So where is your mind?**