

## Sunday Service Sermons

**17 October 2021**

Receiving God's Guidance

Text: "But we have the mind of Christ", *1 Cor. 2:16*

Full text: *1 Corinthians 2:12-16*.

This section of Scripture has a heading of: Wisdom from the Spirit.

I like wisdom.

You see since I am not all that bright and intelligence is a given at birth and cannot be improved upon, I seek wisdom.

For wisdom can be improved upon for it comes from God.

I made God my partner in life and in business when I became aware that I was in over my head and needed a partner who I could trust to have my best interest at the forefront of his advice.

In this section of Scripture Paul is telling the followers of Jesus that we have a hidden wisdom that God has destined for our glory.

No one of the world knows this wisdom for it is from God and God has prepared something far greater than the world can ever know.

And it is revealed to us by his Spirit.

For the Spirit knows the deep things of God and he knows the thoughts of people.

It is the Spirit who knows the deep thoughts of God and this Spirit lives in us.

The Spirit conveys to us what God has for us, spiritual truths and wisdom.

Without the Spirit we are not able to know and do the things of God.

Through the Spirit we can have the mind of Christ.

And in this way we can know and accomplish the will of God the Father.

Can I add here that the Holy Spirit, alive and operating in our lives, is not optional but essential to being a Christian.

We have no hope of being Christ-like without Him.

Having the mind of Christ.

What does that mean?

Isn't it a bit presumptuous and maybe even shocking to claim that we, as followers of Jesus can have his mind working in us?

When Jesus is Lord in our lives and each day's highest priority is given to seeking and trusting God's guidance, it is normal to seek and find the mind of Christ.

That is the whole point of Jesus coming to earth and paying the price for our sin.

When Abraham wanted a bride for his son he sent a servant to the old country to find one.

He asked the Lord to lead him, through his servant, to find the correct bride for Isaac.

How often do we ask the Lord to lead us in our everyday decisions or the really big decisions we have to make?

A missionary was making their tour to report and raise funds and had an afternoon free and the host asked if they wanted to go shopping.

The missionary asked for some time alone then came back and stated that The Lord and said that it would be ok.

Isn't that the intended lifestyle for all believers?

God in all aspects of our life!

The text for today states that we can have the mind of Christ helping us live a life for God through

Christ.

Receiving God's guidance means that our lives have been possessed by the Living God.

He has taken up residence within us to enlighten us so that we may walk in the light.

He leads us so that it can be said that for as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God.

If we have the mind of Christ, we have received his knowledge.

We receive the knowledge of Christ from our Guidebook.

God reveals himself and what he expects from his people through the Bible.

Its words are God's words.

There are more than two thousand instances in the Bible where it is said that the words of this Book are identified as the Word of God.

Clearly the bible can help us know how to walk and where to walk.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path". *Ps 119:105*

Without God's Word as a guide, we walk in darkness.

To ignore it or take it lightly is to assure the absence of God's guidance.

Jeremiah said, "I know, O Lord, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps." *Jer. 10:23*

To receive God's guidance means we must be open to the open Bible, but not because the Bible maps out our daily schedules or gives us detailed prescriptions for every problem.

The Bible does, however, present principles, and these principles show us the path.

They light up the way.

Best of all, the Bible shows us Jesus, the Light of the World.

When we have been born anew by the living and abiding Word of God, he is present to instruct us.

When a pastor asked to counsel with a couple about a family problem, he discovered that neither spouse was a Christian.

The focus of the discussion moved from the problem itself to Christ, who could give light to their lives.

In due time both became disciples.

Later the pastor reminded them of his availability to help them think through the problems with which they had first approached him.

Their answer was, "With Jesus we've learned how to talk to one another about our problems and to forgive the past."

You can be assured we will call you if we need you but right now we are solving the problems that were irritating us by opening ourselves to his Word and to one another.

Indeed the Bible serves as a helpful Guidebook when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior.

By the knowledge of it, we have the mind of Christ.

If we have the mind of Christ, it is because we have received his Spirit.

The reality of the knowledge that we have the mind of Christ because we have received his Spirit, causes some who seek a rational explanation for every fact of spiritual experience to blow the fuses of faith.

On the other hand, this reality causes others to blow the fuses of practical application.

The truth is that both faith and words require the Spirit's guidance to be operational.

We are not merely to set the automatic pilot and keep our hands from the controls of personhood.

Rather, we are to be decisively open to impressions that are cultivated by our knowledge of the truth and by our openness to God's guidance.

We choose to make our minds a storehouse for the knowledge of God and a distribution center for the doing of God's will.

With this highest knowledge and deepest impressions of how to apply truth in our experience, we are walking in the Spirit.

If you have ever been in a foreign land, you know the value of a guide.

People around you may not speak your language, but the guide does.

He helps you understand what you see and what you do.

Otherwise, little is appreciated and enjoyed.

A guide can open up what is before us so we can understand and see it clearly.

God can be a guide for us.

He comes to us and dwells within us to teach us the truth and gives us the mind of Christ so we can serve Him and glorify His name.

If we have the mind of Christ, it is because we have received his invitation to pray.

Our minds are the battleground in which the forces of righteousness and the forces of evil engage in conflict.

The outcome of the battle depends on our submission to God.

Through faith we may be in a right position and yet disagree with God's guidance.

This is why Jesus said, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." *Mark 14:38*

This is why he so frequently turned aside to refresh himself in new submission to the Father's will.

His position with God was never in doubt, but he had to renew his submission regularly because of Satan's power.

We are to present our bodies as living sacrifices.

That is our position before the Father.

We also are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

This is submission.

And how is submission achieved?

Through prayer.

Do you remember how Jesus said, "If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them who ask him?" *Luke 11:14*

The Holy Spirit is already given to believers as the representative of Jesus.

If, however, we respond to Jesus' invitation to pray, to make contact with heaven, to get in time with the will of the heavenly Father, then the Holy Spirit becomes the power to guide our minds in the conflict.

He enables us to choose our actions wisely.

Receiving God's guidance means that we pray intently, frequently, and submissively.

In *Acts 17:10-11* we note that the new church in Berea "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily"

Some amazing experiences take place because we have the mind of Christ.

Circumstances that mean nothing to the natural mind take on special meaning.

Events that unfold without special religious connotation become a unique means of ministry in the name of Jesus.

We cannot always perceive where our circumstances and where these events will finally lead, but we have the mind of Christ, and that is enough.

Remember how the boy Samuel was called from his bed to respond to a voice that spoke to him?

Under the wise nurturing of Eli, he learned to answer. "Speak; for our servant hears." *1 Sam. 3:10*

This is to be our daily prayer as we receive the Holy Spirit's guidance.