

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PRAYER MEETING 15 JULY 2020

Last week we talked about praying in the name of Jesus i.e. in the authority and power of Jesus, and also praying for what He would pray for ... but how do we know what that is?

This week we looked more closely at what it means to have the “mind of Christ”.

The key scripture to understand this is **1 Corinthians 2:**

*When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that **your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.***

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷ But **we speak God’s wisdom**, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him’—

¹⁰ these things **God has revealed to us through the Spirit**; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

¹¹ For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also **no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God.** ¹² Now **we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.** ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually. ¹⁵ **Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.**

¹⁶ ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But **we have the mind of Christ.**

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Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we are given access to a whole range of gifts, but they don’t come fully formed – we have to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to exercise and develop his gifts by using them. Just like we are born with leg muscles and the potential ability to walk, but we have to learn to walk by walking.

So we need to learn to think like Jesus by choosing His way of thinking:

- Remind ourselves that we can think like Jesus because, through our Baptism, we are part of him.
- Know that (through Him) we are loved by the Father; remind ourselves constantly of that truth.
- Choose to love God with our whole mind, heart, strength: to worship Him.
- Offer our whole selves to Him to be transformed, particularly in the renewing of our mind.
- Choose to fill our minds with God’s thoughts: spend some time every day thinking about scriptures that renew your mind with the truth about what God says – about His love for you, His plan for you, how He wants you to live and behave.
- Learn how to “take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (see [2 Corinthians 10:4-5](#))
- Make up our mind ahead of time what we will and won’t do; then when temptation comes, we have laid a foundation to make right choices.
- E.g. “when I’m tempted to be fearful/anxious, I’m going to choose to trust Jesus.”
- “When I’m tempted to gossip or speak badly of someone, with the help of the Holy Spirit I will choose to stay silent or speak of their good points.”
- “When I’m tempted to feel resentful about how someone hurt me, with the help of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus I will choose to forgive them.”
- “When I’m tempted to moan about a situation, with God’s help I will offer to help in some way.”