

*If you could share one of God's characteristics, which would it be? **His omnipotence** – power to accomplish anything on earth? Or **His omnipresence** – power to be in more than one place at the same time (very handy!!)? Or would it be **His omniscience** – knowing Father's will in every circumstance as it occurs for you?*

I remember the night God saved me that the most pressing issue for me was future direction. I remember the helpless feeling of not knowing what direction in life to take or what career would bring me greatest fulfillment, and talking about it with the only One who clearly saw/knew the future! I couldn't see past the nose in my face; but God, who knew me and the future, was asking me to trust Him with it! My response: "Who wouldn't? Of course I will!" What I didn't learn 'till later is that my new life by the Holy Spirit gave me Christ's mind: **the ability to know what He knows about God's will in every circumstance of my life!**

Can you imagine – Christians have the ability to think God's thoughts, to gain God's perspectives, to apply God's wisdom in life decisions, and to know & act out God's will in our own circumstances? The real question for us: Is this our reality?

READ: 1Corinthians 2 (NLT)

1-5) Only the Spirit can save and sanctify believers!

- No superior speech, vast vocabulary, or human wisdom
- Christ alone...and Him crucified (to resolve our problem!)
- Faith in Christ, not human wisdom (DG: won by=won to!)

7-10) God's revelation in Christ remains a mystery to unbelievers

-God's great plans have now been seen, heard, thru HS

OT context: Isaiah 64, 65: No eye, ear or mind ever encountered any other God, though Jehovah had not been understood!

-But now, thru God's Spirit, His mysterious plan is known

God's Holy Spirit is the One who enlightens believers about this age-old mystery: God's Messiah coming in flesh & living in us!

***Col 1:27: the secret/mystery of the gospel = Christ lives in you!**

-Believers are given God's Spirit at conversion/rebirth!

- Only those who have God's Spirit can worship Him
- Only those who have God's Spirit are His children

ILLUS. recent letter from GBA representative!

14-16) Unbelievers cannot know God or His mysterious plan

- “Natural” vs “Spiritual” = *appraised by God's Spirit*
 - psuchikos* – relates to physical, tangible life only
 - pneumatikos* – relates to spirit-realm only
- Unbelievers cannot truly know Believers = “of God”
- We have ***the mind of Christ*** thru His indwelling Spirit

11-13) *Why did God give Him to us? What is His job in us?*

- Sanctification = to know God's will & do it God's way**
- Believers have the Spirit of God telling us God's will
- Believers have the Spirit of God teaching us God's ways

If you're a Believer, all your thoughts are not your own! Some of your thoughts are the very thoughts of God Himself. In fact, when you think of truly good, just, righteous, merciful, generous thoughts/actions – ***you are not generating these; you are receiving them directly from God thru His Spirit in you!*** You are hearing Him “speak” to you (*prompt, urge, convey, enlighten*)

No epiphanies; no miracles; just the normal working of the Holy Spirit conveying Christ's mind to us from within us!

All Believers have the Mind of Christ; How do we access/use?

By inviting God to do life with His way, we not only dig out & uncover His wisdom in us – we benefit by applying it in our own situations. But if we're not inviting God's Spirit to enlighten & inform us, telling us what wise decisions to make or which paths to take, the treasure of Christ's mind in us goes untapped!

INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:

So, the question for each of us who claims to be a Believer is...

- 1) *Am I receiving the knowledge of God's will in my unique circumstances conveyed by His Spirit?*
- 2) *Do I pray with the expectation of “sensing” Him inform my heart & mind?*

WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Ezekiel 36:27 (NIV)

One of the most significant marks of the New Covenant, and greatest improvements over the Old Covenant, is the Holy Spirit Who God causes to dwell within each Believer. OT believers did not have the Spirit indwelling them; only occasionally and temporarily did the Spirit “visit” upon believers for special reasons/miracles. But Christ, before His resurrection, promised not to leave us alone, as orphans, but to send us The Helper/Comforter, the Holy Spirit – an improvement God had already promised thru the prophet Ezekiel @ 600 years before!

“And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

What would you say is THE most critical aspect in following God’s decrees (will) and keeping His laws (ways)?

Knowing them! We must know *His will and His ways* – not just generally, but in the unique circumstances of our own lives! It’s impossible to “*follow and keep*” if we don’t know specifics!

And how did God make certain that we would know His will/ways? He made His Holy Spirit to dwell in each of us!
It is God’s Holy Spirit who shares w/ us the “Mind of Christ” – His will/ways – as we go thru our journey in life with Him

Sermon in a Sentence: **The Mind of Christ!**

Col 1:27: *“For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret (mystery): Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.”*