

The Mind of Christ

Bible Study

March 7, 2015

Church of God International

Introduction:

Today, we conclude the Bible study series on “Wisdom From Above” with the topic entitled

“The Mind Of Christ”

Introduction:

Previously we learned that God's people share a common vision— that is, to become children of God in the kingdom that has been prepared for us since the foundation of the world.

Introduction:

Matthew 25:34.

“Then the King will say to those on his right,
‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father;
take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared
for you since the creation of the world.’”

Introduction:

This secret wisdom of
God – the
understanding of
God's plan for us - is
revealed only to
God's people through
the inspiration of the
Holy Spirit.

Introduction:

To access divine understanding and wisdom and to achieve our spiritual goal, we need the mind of Christ.

Introduction:

The Bible study is divided into 5 parts

1. What is the Mind?

2. What is the Mind of Christ?

3. Do we have the Mind of Christ?

4. How do we acquire the Mind of Christ?

5. Practical Tips to have the Mind of Christ.

What is the Mind?

As defined by Wikipedia, “the mind” is the set of cognitive faculties that enables consciousness, perception, thinking, judgment, and memory.

What is the Mind?

The mind enables a being to have subjective awareness towards the environment,

What is the Mind?

...to perceive and respond to stimuli with some kind of agency, and to have consciousness, including thinking and feeling.

What is the Mind?

Broadly speaking, thought is a mental act that allows humans to make sense of things in the world,

What is the Mind?

...and to represent and interpret them in ways that are significant, or which accord with their needs, attachments, goals, commitments, plans, ends, desires, etc.

What is the Mind?

Therefore, the mind is the seat of intelligence, reason and rational thought.

What is the Mind?

Our mind does not operate in a vacuum. The world and environment around us shapes our perception, reality and thinking.

What is the Mind?

We think in a certain way because of our upbringing, education and background. We are nurtured into the way our mind thinks.

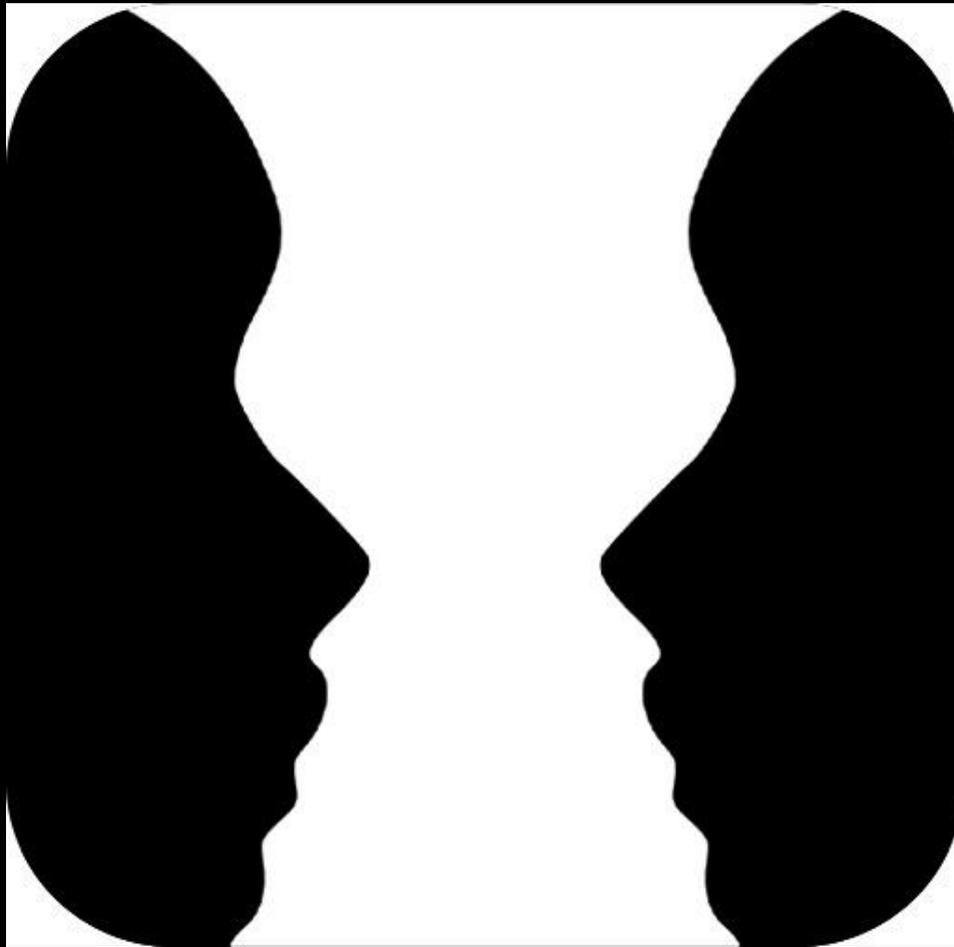
What is the Mind?

We can all look at the same picture but perceive it differently. Our opinion and perspective vary widely from one person to another.

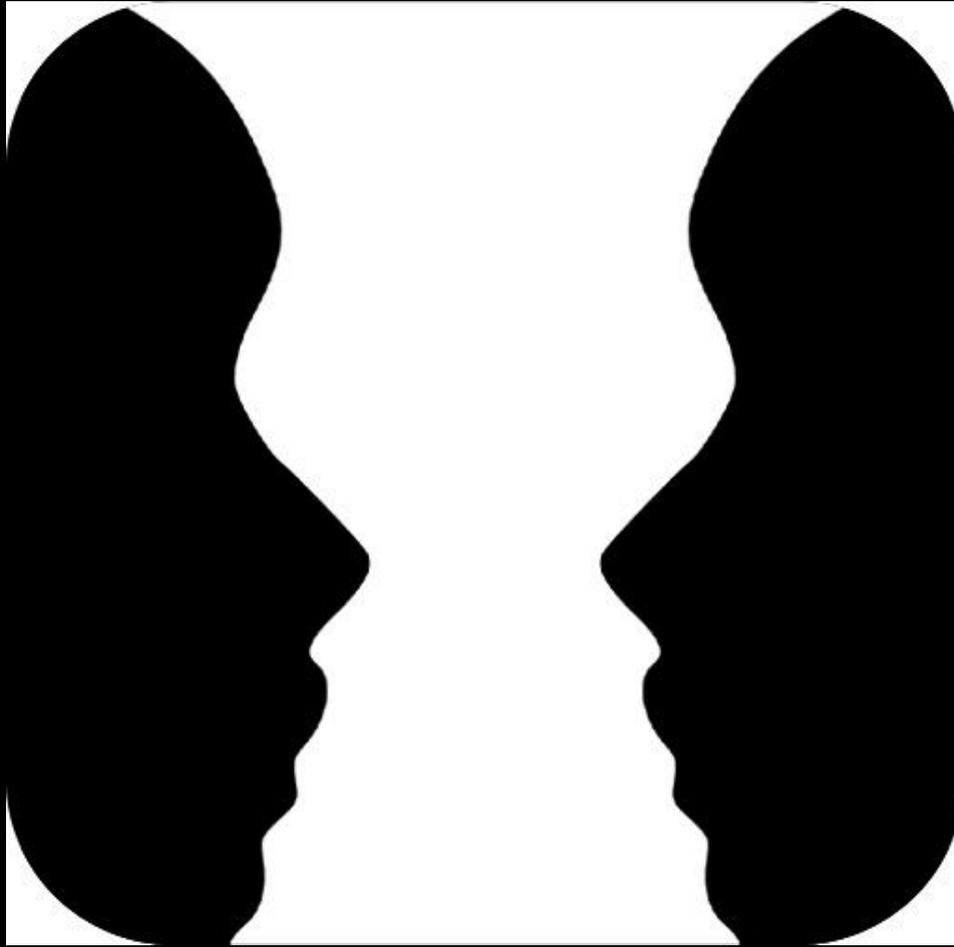
What is the Mind?

I have a few mental exercises to illustrate this point. Please tell me what you see in the pictures.

What do you see?



Vase or 2 faces?



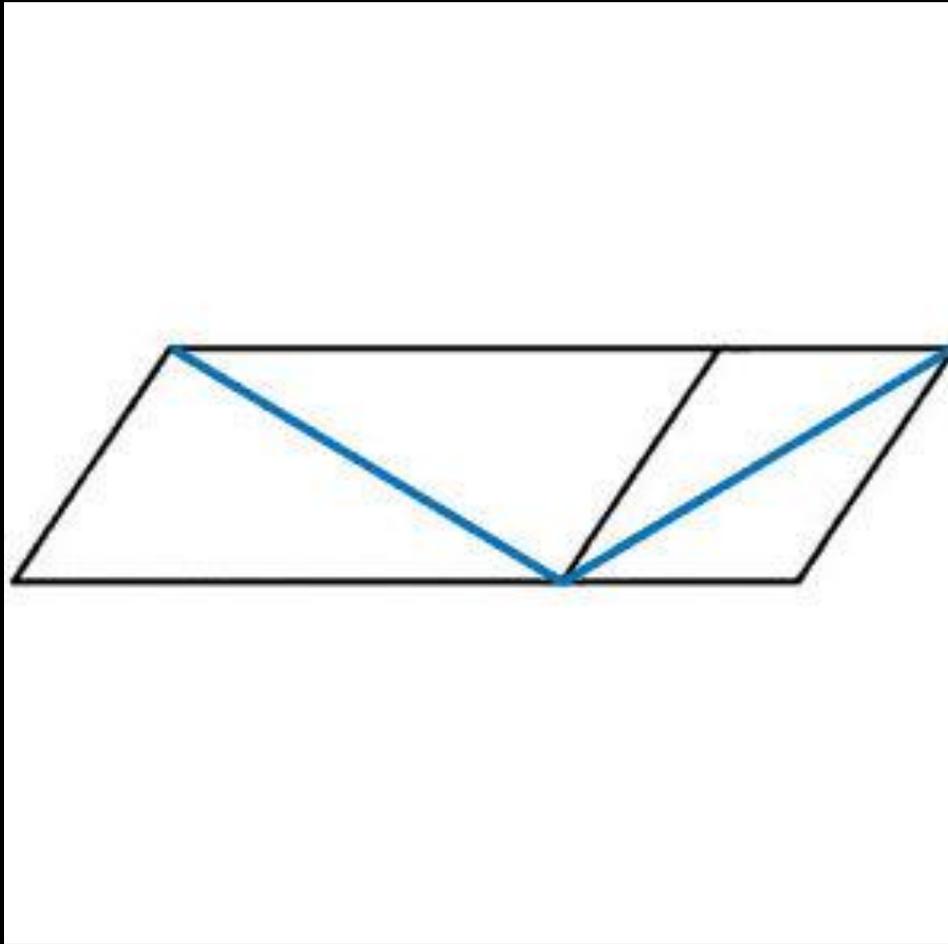
What do you see?



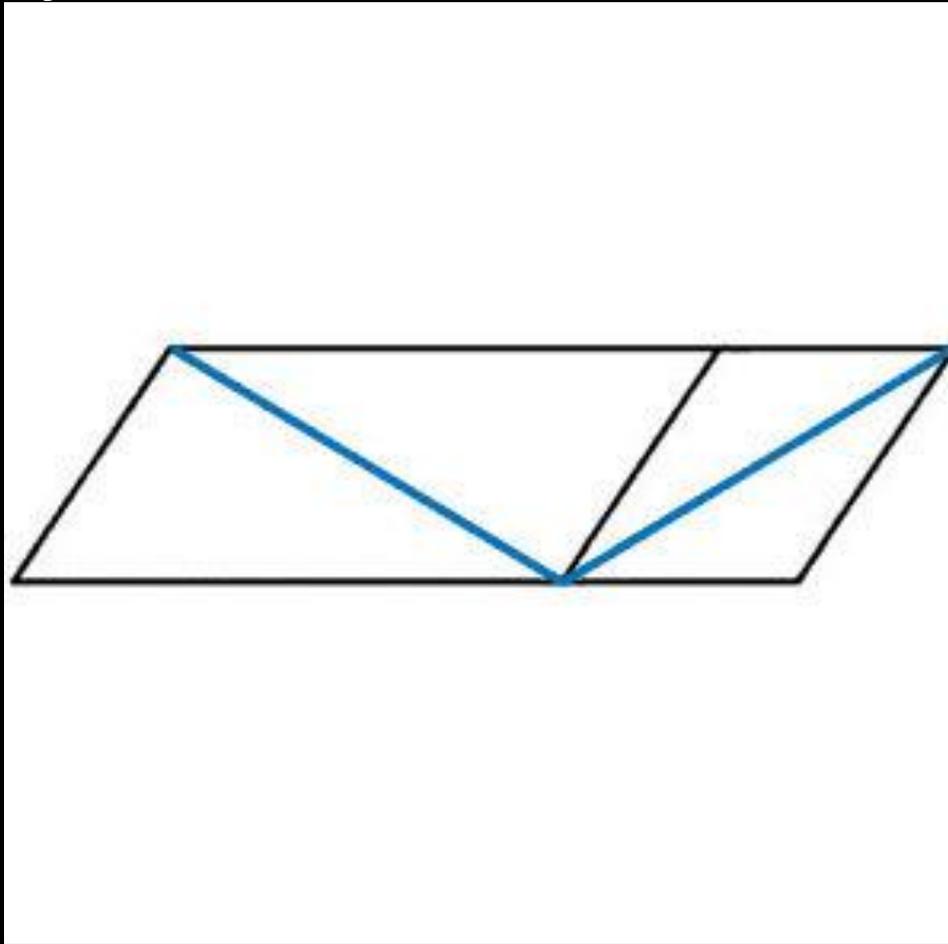
A beautiful young lady (side view) and
an old lady (almost front view)



Is one of the blue lines longer than the other?



It is an illusion,
they are of the same length



Please read

THE PAOMNNEHAL PWEOR OF THE HMUAN MNID. Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttair in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mse and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

What is the Mind?

This exercise illustrates that our mind is set-up to see what we want to see. Our mind is how we perceive the world around us.

What is the Mind?

In turn, the environment influences our mind.
Therefore, the human mind is set on things
that are worldly and familiar to us.

What is
the Mind of Christ?

What is the Mind of Christ?

The common answers to this question are:
love, humility, grace and faithfulness.

What is the Mind of Christ?

These are not the mind of Christ rather they are attributes of God that Jesus possesses in abundance. These attributes come from the mind of Christ.

What is the Mind of Christ?

The mind of Christ simply refers to how Jesus thinks - how Jesus perceives things, events and His responses on them.

What is the Mind of Christ?

You might say that it is impossible to have the mind of Christ! How can we ever know how Jesus thinks and what his thoughts are?

What is the Mind of Christ?

Yet, the Scripture says we are to become imitators of Christ – referring to our thoughts and actions – and to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

What is the Mind of Christ?

Consider these Scriptures:
Ephesians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 2
Corinthians 3:18 and 2 Peter 3:18.

Ephesians 5:1

Follow God's example, therefore, as
dearly loved children

1 Corinthians 11:1

Follow my example, as I follow
the example of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

What is the Mind of Christ?

We are to possess
the very mind of
Christ.

We need to think, act
and behave like
Christ!

What is the Mind of Christ?

As followers, and
brothers and sisters
of Christ, we are to
think like Christ.

What is the Mind of Christ?

As heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, we must share and own the same mind.

What is the Mind of Christ?

To have the mind of Christ means to see things from Christ's perspective - a divine perspective.

What is the Mind of Christ?

Having the mind of Christ means we understand God's plan for the world; i.e., to bring many sons to glory.

Hebrews 2:10-11

- (10) In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.
- (11) Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters

What is the Mind of Christ?

God is making you a son and a daughter.
You are to participate in the divine glory.

2 Peter 1:4

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

What is the Mind of Christ?

Therefore, the Father and the sons must be the same. We are to be one with God in mind and in spirit.

What is the Mind of Christ?

This is what Jesus Christ said in John 17. John 17 records the prayer of Jesus Christ, summarizing His thought at the end of His mission.

John 17: 20-23

(20) “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

(21) that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17: 20-23

(22) I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

(23) I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

What is the Mind of Christ?

To have the mind of Christ is to be united with God the Father and Jesus Christ in spirit.

What is the Mind of Christ?

It means sharing the plan, purpose, and perspective of Christ, something that all believers must possess.

You are to think like Christ possessing divine perspective!

Do You Have the Mind of Christ?

Do you have the mind of Christ?

Do You Have the Mind of Christ?

Ask any professing Christian and the reply is an automatic and resounding yes – yes, I have the mind of Christ! Are you sure you have the mind of Christ thus you think like Christ?

Do You Have the Mind of Christ?

There are two (2) mindsets in the world; they are: (1) worldly and (2) divine. The Bible describes them as carnal and spiritual.

Romans 8:5-9

(5) Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

(6) The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

(7) The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Romans 8:5-9

(8) Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

(9) You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

Do You Have the Mind of Christ?

Vast majority of people and even professing Christians are worldly and carnal minded.

Do You Have the Mind of Christ?

We being humans tend to look at things from a terrestrial, earthly and worldly perspective.

Do You Have the Mind of Christ?

Things like comfort, wealth, fame and glory. These are the things that occupy our attention and we view the world from such perspective.

Do You Have the Mind of Christ?

In fact, we never try to take a look at things from Christ's vantage point. The encouragement of Paul is that we must possess the spiritual mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

- (1) And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.
- (2) For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

(3) I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.

(4) My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

The mind of Christ is contrasted to the wisdom of man (verses 5-6).

(5) so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

God's Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit.

(6) We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

The mind of Christ involves God's wisdom, once hidden but now revealed (verse 7).

(7) No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

- (8) None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- (9) However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” — the things God has prepared for those who love him—

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

The mind of Christ is given to believers through the Spirit of God (verses 10-12).

(10) these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

(11) For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

(12) What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

(13) This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

The mind of Christ can only be accessed by those who have the Holy Spirit (verse 14).

(14) The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit in him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

The mind of Christ gives believers understanding in spiritual matters (verse 15).

(15) The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Finally, we can possess the mind of Christ
(verse 16)

(16) for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

We are all product of this material world, a world that is heavily influenced by Satan.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

James aptly said in **James 4:4** that the world is enmity against God.

(4) You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

By default, our minds are tuned to the wavelength of the world.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

Paul said that we have to switch our mind from “worldly and carnal” to “divine and spiritual.” He said there should be a transformation in our thinking.

Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

We have a choice to put the mind of Christ.

We need to reset or reboot the mind.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

We must change the way we think, Paul insisted. We have an obligation to think and act like Jesus Christ.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

Christianity is mirrored in the way
we think and the way we act.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

A true Christian is one who thinks like Jesus Christ and therefore, his actions will follow Christ.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

To acquire the mind of Christ is to have the Holy Spirit dwell in you. This is what Jesus said regarding the Comforter, Advocate, Spirit of Truth.

John 14:15-27

(15) “If you love me, keep my commands.

(16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—

(17) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:15-27

(18) I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

(19) Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

(20) On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

(21) Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

(22) Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

(23) Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

(24) Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

(25) “All this I have spoken while still with you.

(26) But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

(27) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

A person receives the Holy Spirit as a gift from God upon repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

The Holy Spirit will reveal to you spiritual truths about God and His righteousness.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

Once the Holy Spirit comes upon you,
you need to grow and nurture it so
that it will bear fruits.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

Many people erroneously think that the fruits are gifts of the Holy Spirit and that the fruits come automatically with the Spirit of God.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

The fruits are for us to bear, and to develop and grow with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-26.

(16) So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

(17) For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want

Galatians 5:16-26.

(18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

(19) The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

(20) idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

Galatians 5:16-26.

(21) and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:16-26.

(23) gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

(24) Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:16-26.

(25) Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

(26) Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

The exhortation of Paul is for us to change the way we live from our sinful nature to a life led by the Spirit.

We have to exert the effort to change.

Colossians 3:5-17

(5) Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

(6) Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

(7) You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

Colossians 3:5-17

(8) But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

(9) Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

(10) and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Colossians 3:5-17

(11) Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

(12) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

(13) Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:5-17

(14) And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

(15) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:5-17

(16) Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

(17) And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

How To Acquire the Mind of Christ:

Take notice of all the action words; put to death, rid yourself, take off, put on, clothe yourselves, etc.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

Reboot! Reset!
Push the reset
button of your
mind and be
transformed to the
image of Christ!

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

Practical Tips

How do we renew and transform our mind to that of Christ?

On November 26, 2013, Dr. Hilary Stokes wrote an article in her website entitled “5 Ways To Rewire Your Brain For Meaningful Life Changes.”

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

Excerpt from *5 Ways To Rewire Your Brain For Meaningful Life Changes*

Neuroscientists have discovered the strategy for rewiring the brain.

Contrary to popular approaches, this strategy involves more than just positive thinking or working hard, she said.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

In fact, there are five (5) pathways that must be activated in order to create new neural networks in the brain.

Let's explore a few principles from brain science to better understand how to successfully activate these pathways.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

First, the act of thinking sets into motion a chemical reaction in the brain that can be likened to plugging in a string of lights.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

As you think about something—be it positive or stressful—you turn on a string of lights related to that topic.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

Second, the more you think, feel and act the same way, the faster the lights turn on and the brighter they glow.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

Thus, the string of lights related to driving a car at 45 years old is much brighter and faster than the string you had at 16 years old.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

Finally, we have trillions of brain cells, resulting in thousands (if not millions) of strings of light correlating with our habits in all areas of our lives.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

Donald Hebb's landmark discovery in 1949, "neurons that fire together wire together," best explains the process of wiring and strengthening brain pathways.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

The key is to activate as many of these pathways as possible given they work synergistically. One pathway alone is not enough to successfully rewire your brain.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

However, when you repeatedly align your beliefs, feelings, vision, and actions you will experience lasting changes in your brain.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

1. Identify the beliefs that support your intention

- 1.1 Seeing is not required for believing. In fact, you first have to believe it is possible, before you can expect to truly see it manifest in your life.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

1. Identify the beliefs that support your intention

1.2 Solution: Examine your current beliefs about a desired goal. Identify those beliefs that align with the possibility of achieving your intention.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

2. Embrace positive emotions.

2.1 Emotion is the fuel, the juice or the power behind accomplishing your intention. Without emotion, a thought is neutral, it has no real power. In other words, it is not enough to repeat positive affirmations if you do not feel anything.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

2. Embrace your positive emotions.

2.2. *Solution:* What emotions align with accomplishing your goal? Why is your intention meaningful to you? Spend time feeling these feelings as you focus on your intention.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

3. Visualize.

3.1 The brain can't tell the difference between something real and imagined. When you mentally rehearse your new habits, you strengthen your ability to create them in your life.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

3. Visualize.

3.1 *Solution*: Identify images that align with accomplishing your goal and spend time visualizing them daily.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

4. Take actions that support your intention.

4.1 Your actions have to match what you say you want and vice versa. You can't think and feel one way and act another. **In other words, you won't rewire your brain if you eat donuts while repeating affirmations of being healthy and fit. Similarly, you won't rewire your brain if you go to the gym but complain about how much you can't stand working out.**

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

4. Take actions that support your intention.

4.2 *Solution*: Identify the actions that align with your thoughts and emotions.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

5. Repeat, repeat, repeat.

5.1 Change requires practicing a new habit. It follows the principle, “use it or lose it.”

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

5. Repeat, repeat, repeat.

5.2 *Solution:* Consciously practice thinking, feeling, visualizing and acting in alignment with your desired intention. When you do this, you will stop the unconscious habit of recycling the past and activate your ability to rewire your brain in the present moment.

Transform Your Mind Into the Mind of Christ:

We have the capability to reset and transform our mind from being worldly and carnal to being spiritual.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

We can reset and rewire our mind attuned to divine perspective so that we may have the mind of Christ – able to think and act like Christ.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

The research says we can rewire the mind to think differently by believing, feeling, visualizing, acting and repeating the new perspective.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

Peter exhorts us to be spiritual-minded, to have the divine perspective.

Peter provides a process similar to the 5 practical tips mentioned earlier.

Consider 1 Peter 1:3-2:3.

1 Peter 1

1. Believe. (Verses 3-5)

(3) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1

(4) and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,

(5) who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

Believe in the living hope... into an inheritance
that can never perish, spoil or fade.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

Believe that your destiny is to be part of the Kingdom of God, to become a son and an heir of God and co-heir of Christ.

Galatians 4:4-7

(4) But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

(5) to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Galatians 4:4-7

(6) Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, *“Abba, Father.”*

(7) So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

This is the mind of God. This is God's plan and purpose for you. Let this eternal hope forever be in your heart and mind.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

2. Feel. (Verses 6-9)

(6) In this you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

(7) These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

(8) Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are **filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,**

(9) for you are receiving the **goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

Be filled with inexpressible and glorious joy
for understanding this great understanding
– the secret wisdom of God.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

3. Visualize. (Verse 10-12)

(10) Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

(11) trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

(12) It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the **Holy Spirit sent from heaven**. Even angels long to look into these things.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

You are able to visualize this divine plan from Christ's perspective because of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

Even angels long to look into these things
but they do not see it. But, you do.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

4. Act. (Verse 13-14)

(13) Therefore, **prepare your minds for action;** be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

(14) As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

(15) But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

(16) for it is written: **“Be holy, because I am holy.”**

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

Yes, action. Your action must be consistent with your belief and goal.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

You are not only to think like Christ, but
also to act like Christ.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

5. Repeat, repeat, repeat. Continue the course. (Verses 17-21)

(17) Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, **live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.**

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

(18) For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

(19) but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

(20) He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

(21) Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

Yes, we indeed are strangers in this world.
Once our mind is transformed to the mind of
Christ, we have become strangers in this
world.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

Our views, perspectives
and mindset will
become different.

We no longer look at the
circumstances from a
worldly perspective but
with a divine
perspective - the mind
of Christ.

Prepare Your Mind for Action:

Once you have acquired the mind of Christ, you are now a new babe in Christ. You think and act differently because your mind is renewed and transformed to that of Christ

1 Peter 2:1-3.

Therefore, Peter added saying:

(1) “Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

(2) **Like newborn babies**, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

(3) now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”

Summation:

Let us watch very carefully how our mind works, how our mind thinks.

Summation:

I picked up two (2) things, they are:

(1). The first thing is that our mind works on two (2) systems. System 1 is the fast thinking and system 2 is the slow thinking.

System 1 thinks based on intuition, while
System 2 requires full mental process.

Summation:

Therefore, system 1 – the fast thinking – comes naturally and sub-consciously, it is effortless. It becomes the default system.

Summation:

System 2 – the slow thinking – requires strenuous effort because it requires mental conscious process.
Therefore, system 2 is a deliberate process.

Summation:

2. The second thing is that there is a concept called “Priming.”

Priming is the tendency to think based on context. The context can be environment and/or suggestion.

Summation:

The scripture says in Romans 8 that there are two minds: the carnal and the spiritual.

Summation:

If we make an analogy, the carnal mind is the system 1 – the fast thinking – our default, natural, subconscious mind primed by worldly context.

Summation:

The system 2 is the spiritual mind – the slow thinking – the mind that requires full, conscious, deliberate, spiritual process that must be primed by the Holy Spirit.

Summation:

Therefore, to have the mind of Christ we must adapt the system 2 slow thinking – conscious, deliberate, spiritual - primed by the Holy Spirit.

Summation:

As Christians, we have the power to transform the mind from “system 1 to system 2” in order to think like Christ.

Summation:

It's not easy but it can be done.

It must be done.

Our very salvation depends on it.

Summation:

We can transform our mind to see, to think and act from Christ's perspective.

Summation:

Once you have done all these, you now have
“the Wisdom that is From Above.”