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What Sort of Mind Do We Have? - P4

“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds” (Jeremiah 17:10 ESV).

After man’s rebellion against God in Eden, he relied on his sinful mind for direction as influenced by the god of this world. The result was that the *“intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”* (Gen. 6:5). This is because *“as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper. being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful”* (Rom. 1:28-31 NASB). God lets man rely on his own mind, if he wants to, proving that the consequence is all manner of futility and death, confirming that *“whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool”* (Pro. 28:26a ESV), for God has said, *“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways”* (Isa. 55:8a). Yet, still *“the wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, ‘There is no God’”* (Ps. 10:4).

But God did not abandon man in the mess of his sin. He offers man salvation from his depraved, death-seeking mind through adoption as a Child of God to the Heavenly Father by faith in the work of Jesus Christ. How does God do this? He has given Believers His life-giving mind *“through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God ex-*

*cept the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned... ‘For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ **But we have the mind of Christ**”* (1 Cor. 2:10-16).

With God’s mind in us, we *“must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds”* (Eph. 4:17), which they still do because *“the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”* (2 Cor. 4:4b). This is why to this day *“those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot”* (Rom. 8:5-7).

In your daily struggle with sin, whose mind are you drawing from? Are your thoughts, words, and works proceeding from man’s futile mind or the life-giving mind of God’s Son? Only the mind of Christ enables God’s adopted Children to bear the good fruit of His Spirit.

May we follow our Heavenly Father closely, relying daily on His mind in His Word and communion with His mind by His Spirit. In this way, *“be imitators of God, as beloved children”* (Eph. 5:1), loving *“the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”* (Matthew 22:37b). Even so, Amen.

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