

INTRODUCTION

As children, some of us probably received an allowance or money on our birthday that we kept in a piggy bank. When we became adults with a job and a salary, we needed a checking account, savings account, and plan for retirement – an entirely different way of managing money. If we tried to handle money the way we did as children, it would lead to disaster. The same is true for believers: Through Christ, we have been given a new identity and great inheritance, yet many continue to live according to the mindset of their former lives. To experience the abundant life God has given us, we must adopt the mind of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, Paul explains that the natural man cannot fully understand the things of God because they must be spiritually discerned. People can understand Scripture intellectually and even participate in religious activities without truly discerning spiritual truth. God, however, reveals His wisdom to believers through the Holy Spirit, who knows the deepest things of God. Paul challenges believers to recognize the difference between possessing a spiritual inheritance and living according to it. Just as great wealth requires a wise financial structure, our spiritual inheritance requires a transformed way of thinking. We have been given the mind of Christ to instruct and direct us.

We need to develop a new way of thinking intentionally shaped by God's Word and the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:2). This transformation begins by placing every area of life under God's authority rather than fighting battles in our own strength, studying Scripture deeply rather than superficially, making prayer a priority, surrounding ourselves with Kingdom-minded influences, and not wasting our energy and emotions on worldly things that distract from our heavenly purpose. The goal is not to foster a new mindset but to adopt the mind of Christ so we can unlock the abundant life God has already made available to us.

GETTING STARTED

1. What are some other things that cannot be handled the same way by adults as they are handled by children?
2. If you could instantly upgrade one area of your life – such as finances, relationships, health, or career – which would you choose and why?

LET'S GET PERSONAL

1. How can someone know a lot about the Bible but still struggle to live according to its wisdom?
2. In what area of your life are you most tempted to think like the world rather than trust God's wisdom?

3. How should having the mind of Christ change the way you evaluate situations, make decisions, and respond to challenges?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

1. Who helps you grow spiritually, and how can you strengthen that relationship? What influence causes you to think like the world, and how can you remove it from your life?
2. What situation in your life do you need to surrender to God and stop fighting the battle in your own strength?
3. ***Want to dig deeper?*** Take a look at the following passages: 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; Romans 11:33; Psalm 119:18; 1 Corinthians 3:1; Romans 12:2; 2 Samuel 23:2; Isaiah 55:9; Luke 24:45.

RENEW YOUR MIND

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. – **Romans 12:2***