

Praying the Mind of Jesus Christ

Acts 4:29-33 AMPC

[29] And now, Lord, observe their threats and grant to Your bond servants full freedom to declare Your message fearlessly, [30] While You stretch out Your hand to cure and to perform signs and wonders through the authority and by the power of the name of Your holy Child and Servant Jesus. [31] And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage. [32] Now the company of believers was of one heart and soul, and not one of them claimed that anything which he possessed was exclusively his own, but everything they had was in common and for the use of all. [33] And with great strength and ability and power the apostles delivered their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace (loving-kindness and favor and goodwill) rested richly upon them all.

Counterfeit goods, software piracy, and theft of trade secrets is costing our American economy 600 billion dollars a year, according to the Associated press. Great horror struck the condiment industry in Dover, New Jersey back in October 2012. Where large quantities of fraudulent plastic bottles of Heinz ketchup were found. A tenant found many cases that exploded with flies appearing all over. The warehouse was abandoned. The unmatched bottles fermented causing a giant explosion. This all turned out to be a counterfeit operation of thieves trying to hijack the Heinz ketchup name.

And so it is with Christianity. Satan has unleashed many counterfeit Christian philosophies into our country so you and I cannot operate the mind of God for daily living. Satan is the fly in counterfeit ketchup philosophies that only explode on us when high stress, fear, and serious personal hurts hit us. I am watching here in this church, in our community, and with extended families many different philosophies creeping in to imitate the mind of Jesus Christ. With the intent to cause disillusionment and no intimacy with Jesus in the middle of a battle or storm, because there are no substitutes to the mind of Jesus Christ. You have to remember substitute philosophies are very close to the mind of Christ, but they are counterfeit because they don't hold up under tragedy, sickness, severe losses, and deep emotional hurts.

Let me name a few counterfeit philosophies we must contend and discern for daily survival:

1. **Secular humanism**- it's agnostic and atheistic philosophy that says the meaning of life is found in humanist terms only. it rejects the concept of a specific savior or supernatural creator. (This is what our educational institutions are being hit with in a big way).
2. **The Universal theology of God**- Where you can believe in a higher power but it doesn't have to be the God of the Bible. Jesus is a good man but you can live and go to heaven by other philosophies of choices, just treat people with love and respect. You have many other philosophies time does not permit us to talk about such as determinism, utilitarianism, and positivism.

Albert Einstein once said, *"Everything is already determined from the beginning and the end. Human beings, vegetables, or cosmic dust, will all dance to a mysterious tune, intoned in the distance by an invisible piper."*

Thomas H. Huxley said, *"The deepest sin against the human mind is to believe things without evidence"*.

But the only philosophy that stands the test of time for fulfillment in all human relationships is walking with the mind of Jesus Christ.

I first get His mind by receiving the Holy Ghost with the evidence with speaking with tongues. I say this because God uses the speaking of tongues to engineer and orchestrate His mind through our human carnal sin nature. So if you have not received the Holy Ghost or pray little in tongues this doesn't mean God doesn't love you. It doesn't mean you are a second rate Christian or that you are less better than others that pray in tongues. It means you are limiting your potential to receive and walk with more understanding to the mind of Jesus Christ, that's all! He has more for us all. On the other hand there are people who pray in tongues a whole lot and demonstrate very poor fruit of the spirit. So praying in the spirit or praying in tongues requires you making God's affection your number one pursuit for daily living. He wants you seeking Him with affection and the fear of the Lord when you pray in the spirit. Because when we pray in tongues with a transparent humble and repenting heart, we **WILL FIND THE MIND OF GOD FOR THE WARFARE WE FACE ON A DAILY BASIS!** Go back to our opening text for a minute in **Acts 4:29-33**

[29] And now, Lord, observe their threats and grant to Your bond servants full freedom to declare Your message fearlessly,

Notice why they are praying this prayer. Notice their purpose for asking for boldness in verse 30. **[30] 1) So God will stretch out his hand to heal and hand to cure. 2) And to perform signs and wonders through the authority and by the power of the name of Your holy Child and Servant Jesus. 31] And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.** In other words they began to pray in the spirit or in tongues and magnify God in praise and worship. The place was shaken with the presence of Almighty God.

Here is the focus of today's message in the rest of **verse 31**, **and they continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage. they did not cast their confidence away.**

So when there is boldness and courage to operate in the mind of God, **verse 32** says, the church will take on a culture of its own. It takes on a culture of its own in four ways:

32] Now the company of believers was of 1) one heart and soul, 2) and not one of them claimed that anything which he possessed was exclusively his own, but everything they had was in common and for the use of all.
33] And 3) with great strength and ability and power the apostles delivered their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, 4) and great grace (loving-kindness and favor and goodwill) rested richly upon them all.

There was unity in relationships, there was unity in giving and sacrificing for each other, there was strength and power to fight off depression and selfishness between each other. They experienced great grace and God's goodness. **All because they sought God's confidence and boldness while facing serious oppositions.**

This is the mind of Jesus Christ found by praying in the spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:1-2 AMPC

[1] EAGERLY PURSUE and seek to acquire this love make it your aim, your great quest; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy (interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching). [2] For one who speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the Holy Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things not obvious to the understanding.

What Paul is simply saying when you practice turning off your intellectual and emotional side of yourself and pray in the spirit God will reveal the mysteries of his mind for you personally. He downloads answers to complex problems. This is where Satan like the Heinz ketchup wants to hijack your problem solving thinking. We become impatient and don't discipline ourselves to practice praying this way. Or we are too tired and exhausted to pray this way. Some of us are too wounded and disappointed to pray this way. And some of us are just too fearful and full of anxieties. To the point we allow people, circumstances and demons to intimidate and mock us from our position of confidence. The Devil's goal here is to get you to not use the mind of the Lord. Or to use some other counterfeit philosophy to deal with your problems or relational issues. The devil wants to get us all to a place where we say, I tried that praying or that Christianity and it didn't work for me or I can still violate God's word with secret sins and moral failures and still pray like Christians pray. When in reality we were not fully operating in the mind of God through praying in the spirit like the Apostles taught us. At the end of the day when you and I operate in some other counterfeit philosophy we are subject to **Galatians 5:18-21**

Galatians 5:18-21 AMPC

[18] But if you are guided (led) by the Holy Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. [19] Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency, [20] Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), [21] Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Remember our number one goal is to pursue affection with God in praying in the spirit. Then He opens up to us how to deal with things. If I don't get God's mind through praying in the spirit I leave myself open to deception from other philosophies. Saul did this prophesying in the spirit but he never cultivated an affection for intimacy with God's word. This is why people take threads of a truth and pervert it. They are secretly harboring unforgiveness towards authority. They are practicing sexual sins or giving into sexual secret vices while proclaiming they have the truth.

Praying in the spirit heals and cleanses and transforms us when we get serious and desperate with God.

Romans 8:26-27 AMPC

[26] So too the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. [27] And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the Holy Spirit what His intent is, because the Spirit intercedes and pleads before God in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will.

So we pray in the spirit so God will activate the fruit of the spirit in our character as we pray.

1 Corinthians 14:4 AMPC

[4] He who speaks in a strange tongue edifies and improves himself, but he who prophesies interpreting the divine will and purpose and teaching with inspiration edifies and improves the church and promotes growth in Christian wisdom, piety, holiness, and happiness.

When we do not pray in the spirit to get God's mind we become double minded. The book of James says this makes us unstable in our planning and our goal setting for daily living. We lose our confidence when facing mockery and intimidation. Boldness and confidence comes when we experience God revealing to us His mysteries on how He is going to solve conflict in our lives. But this requires self honesty. This requires patience when you're praying. This requires making time to be available to pray this way. This requires an obedience to God's Word because you fear His Word. You refuse to allow your feelings and intellect to override the mind of the spirit in daily choices. This is where fasting comes in because there are times are flesh is just too strong to obey God like we need to. So when I am praying in the spirit I am casting down imaginations, philosophies that are adapting themselves against the mind of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4-6 AMPC

[4] For the weapons of our warfare are not physical weapons of flesh and blood, but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [5] Inasmuch as we refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the true knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One), [6] Being in readiness to punish every insubordinate for his disobedience, when your own submission and obedience as a church are fully secured and complete.

The devil is after **two things** from you:

1. Your confidence and boldness with God and
2. Your affection for the things of God.

Where you just go through the motions for serving. Where you expect no miracles or great things to happen. Where you live with low expectations for Kingdom business.

We build up our confidence praying in the Holy Ghost

Jude 1:17-25 AMPC

[17] But you must remember, beloved, the predictions which were made by the apostles (the special messengers) of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). [18] They told you beforehand, In the last days (in the end time) there will be scoffers who seek to gratify their own unholy desires, following after their own ungodly passions. [19] It is these who are agitators setting up distinctions and causing divisions--merely sensual creatures, carnal, worldly-minded people, devoid of the Holy Spirit and destitute of any higher spiritual life. [20] But you, beloved, build yourselves up founded on your most holy faith make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher, praying in the Holy Spirit; [21] Guard and keep yourselves in the love of God; expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)--which will bring you unto life eternal. [22] And refute so as to convict some who dispute

with you, and on some have mercy who waver and doubt. [23] Strive to save others, snatching them out of the fire; on others take pity but with fear, loathing even the garment spotted by the flesh and polluted by their sensuality. [24] Now to Him Who is able to keep you without stumbling or slipping or falling, and to present you unblemished (blameless and faultless) before the presence of His glory in triumphant joy and exultation with unspeakable, ecstatic delight-- [25] To the one only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory (splendor), majesty, might and dominion, and power and authority, before all time and now and forever (unto all the ages of eternity). Amen (so be it).

There are **five ways** to walk in the confidence of God in the middle of a crises:

1. *Pray in the spirit on a continuous basis*
2. *Sing in the spirit by prophetic praise and worship (LIKE DAVID IN THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID GOD WILL ANSWER THIS KIND OF PRAYING)*
3. *make time to meditate on the word. This is where you practice loving God's word when you are hurting and cannot feel his presence.*
4. *Practice submission to family and the fivefold ministry (for soul winning and discipleship kingdom business)*
5. *Practice crucified daily living to your carnal sin nature. This is where you put your flesh under constraints for what it screams at you to give it.*

GOD WILL REVEAL HIS MIND TO YOU WHEN YOU PRACTICE THESE FIVE TEACHING PRINCIPLES BY PRAYING IN THE HOLY GHOST.

1. *We need His mind for soul winning.*
2. *We need his mind for church expansion.*
3. *We need his mind for our homes and marriages.*
4. *We need his mind for our job growth and conflicts.*
5. *We need his mind for unity in the church and for church vision.*
6. *We need his mind operating in the dimension of signs wonders and miracles.*
7. *We need his mind for flowing in the affection of his love through us for others.*

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