

THE MIND

Greek – νοῦς **nōus**, nooce;

Defined:

- intellect
- meaning
- understanding
- intelligence
- way of thinking
- reason

Harper's Bible Dictionary defines the mind as *the human capacity for contemplation, judgment, and intention.*

Romans 8:5–8 ESV

⁵ For 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. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ 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. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:5–8 - **mind on the flesh** = death & hostile to God, does not submit to God's law; **mind on the spirit** = life & peace

We will come back to this word “flesh”

Matthew 22:37 ESV

³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Matthew 22:37 - “love God with all your...**mind**”

› What does a mind in the Spirit look like?

Working Terms

Mind of Christ

- Christ
- Spirit
- Heaven

Mind of World

- flesh
- carnal

THE MIND OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 2:14–16 ESV

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Let's back up to the beginning of [1 Corinthians 2](#) and see how Paul got to the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 ESV

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

WISDOM IN HEAVEN VS. WISDOM ON EARTH

We are going to begin to see the polarizing difference between a mind set on the Earth and a mind set on the Spirit.

Wisdom of the Spirit is **demonstrated**.

Wisdom in world is **persuasive**.

1 Corinthians 2:6-8 ESV

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The wisdom from the Spirit was “decreed before the ages for our glory”

GLORY

glory 1391. δόξα **dōxa**, dox'-ah; from the base of 1380; *glory* (as very *apparent*), in a wide application (lit. or fig., obj. or subj.):—dignity, glory (-ious), honour, praise, worship.

Glory Root 1380. δοκέω **dōkēō**, dok-eh'-o; a prol. form of a prim. verb δόκω **dōkō**, dok'-o (used only as an alt. in certain tenses: comp. the base of 1166) of the same mean.; **to think**; by impl. to seem (truthfully or uncertainly):—be accounted, (of own) please (-ure), be of reputation, seem (good), suppose, think, trow.

The wisdom of God (the Spirit; mind of Christ) was decreed [predetermined] before the ages for our ability to **think!**

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 ESV

⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

“What no eye, no ear, no heart imagined” - WHAT!

This is a never ending surprise!

For those that enjoy deep bible study, this is why we call it “nuggets of treasure”

It is the Lord’s desire to reveal to you the **depths of who he is.**

SPIRITUAL DEPTHS

Here we see that the Spirit wants to reveal the **depths of God** to us.

In [Revelation 2:24](#), we see that there are also **deep things of Satan**.

Let's briefly unpack this letter to the Church at Thyatira...

<< Jesus is speaking >>

[Revelation 2:20](#) “20 But I have this against you, that you **tolerate**...

tolerate ἀφίημι **aphiēmi**, *af-ee'-ay-mee*; to send forth (away), forgive, let alone

[Revelation 2:23-24](#) “...And all the churches will know that **I am he who searches mind and heart**, and I will give to each of you according to your works. 24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the **deep things of Satan**, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.”

Learning the deep things of Satan here did not come through intentionality, but from **toleration**!

HEART & MIND CONNECTION

Here in [Revelation 2](#) we see the heart and the mind are connected!

Matthew 15:18-19 ESV

¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Matthew 12:34 ESV

³⁴ You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Psalm 19:14 ESV

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 49:3 ESV

³ My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Romans 10:8-10 ESV

⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Proverbs 4:23 ESV

²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 7:1-3 ESV

¹ My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; ² keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; ³ bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

Psalm 119:11 ESV

¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Continuing back in [1 Corinthians 2](#)...

1 Corinthians 2:11 ESV

¹¹ 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 except the Spirit of God.

› **What spirit is in you? Spirit of Flesh or God?**

We read [Romans 8:5-8](#) earlier and saw that a **life in the flesh** leads to death & hostility towards God.

A **life in the spirit** leads to life & peace.

When we have the mind of Christ, **we will be unified**.

Our minds cannot be unified with the Spirit!

This is why truth cannot be relative!!

John’s gospel and first letter talk about the **Spirit of Truth**. < extra study >

1 Corinthians 2:12–13 ESV

¹² 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. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians he writes the following...

[2 Corinthians 10:12](#) “12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commanding themselves. **But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.**”

When our mind is set in the flesh we get caught in the comparison trap, we begin to grade on a curve, we become relative to whatever environment we are in.

This leads to you being **without understanding!**

1 Corinthians 2:14–16 ESV

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

When/If our mind is clouded and we have non understanding, it is because we are thinking **carnally**.

We have been given the opportunity to receive this **wisdom of God (Heaven)**, which is **the mind of Christ**.

- › **What do we do with it?**

PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD

MIND SCIENCE

Our minds are a complicated thing.

The average brain weighs 3 lbs, is 60% fat, and the remaining 40% is made up of water, carbs, and salt!

Our brains are the control center for our bodies.

The brain regulates temperature, movement, thought, dreams, the sub-conscious, speech, judgment, reasoning...

One function of the brain is the storage of information, or **patterns**.

This process is called **neural pathways**.

These pathways are formed as we interact with the world around us.

Apple

The first time you encountered an apple, a new neural pathway was formed.

The second time you encounter an apple, your brain goes back to that pattern to make a determination.

This is how we “remember” if we like or don’t like apples, what they feel like, taste like, smell like, etc.

The complexity of this gets really interesting.

If the first time you encountered an apple you were scared, this will create a fear response in you when you encounter apples.

Although this sounds ridiculous, I’m sure if you think about it, this is present somewhere in your life.

For me, I cannot eat Spaghettios, I had one bad experience as a child and am instantly triggered when I see them.

Now this can absolutely go the other direction.

I used to be disgusted by sushi. Yet, upon meeting Merinda, I was willing to change my previous patterns!

Isn’t it amazing what you are able to do when you are in love!

Now, these neural pathways become harder to change the more that they are traveled.

This is why addiction becomes so hard to break, those roads have been worn in and solidified. It takes time to dismantle those paths.

THE WAY OF THE LORD

With what we know about our **neural pathways**, let's read [Isaiah 40](#) with our mind, in mind.

Isaiah 40:3–5 ESV

³ A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

What a passage to declare over your mind:

- that there be a highway for the lord, in my mind
- that the low places be raised up, in my mind
- that the high places be lowered, in my mind
- that the uneven, unstable places become level, in my mind
- that the rough places be made smooth, in my mind
- **that the glory of the Lord be revealed**, in my mind!

PREACH THE GOOD NEWS

When John the Baptist came and fulfilled this prophecy of Isaiah, he came with a message to **prepare the way of the Lord**.

Luke 3:3 ESV

³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

- Baptism of Repentance
- For the Forgiveness of Sins

Luke 3:18 ESV

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

TAKING ACTION ON YOUR MIND

We must understand that having the mind of Christ is a daily decision, not a one and done.

Inaction to make a decision is still a decision. As seen in [Revelation 2](#), the choice to tolerate or ignore, is still a decision and over time can lead to a dead path.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

[Matthew 6:7-15](#) “7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, **on earth as it is in heaven.**

11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

Key Phrase Here ^

Colossians 3:1-3 ESV

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

We must set our minds on things above, and bring Heavenly thoughts to Earth.

PUT ON THE NEW SELF

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The imagery used here is that of a prisoner taking off his prison clothes and putting on new garments!

He has been set free!

He looks different!

Colossians 3:9-10 ESV

⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Romans 12:1-3 ESV

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 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. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

We see the word Renewed in these three passages.

Renewed ἀνανεόω **anānēōō**, *an-an-neh-ō'-o*; to renovate, reform, be made new, fresh, young

Conform συσχηματίζω **suschēmatizō**, *soos-khay-mat-id'-zo*; to fashion alike

think of a factory that makes the same part, over and over again.

Transform μεταμορφόω **mětamorphōō**, *met-am-or-fō'-o*; to change, transfigure

think the process of a caterpillar to butterfly

NEW MIND VS. OLD MIND

Taken from [Colossians 3:1-17](#), [Galatians 5:16-26](#), [James 3:14-15](#)

NEW MIND

- God's chosen ones
- Holy
- Beloved
- Compassionate Hearts
- Kindness
- Humility
- Meekness
- Bear (endure) with one another
- Forgiving one another
- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control
- Unified
- Thankful
- Word of Christ dwells in you
- Teacher
- Admonish (reprove or caution) gently in wisdom
- Worshippers (psalms, hymns, spiritual songs)

OLD MIND

- sexual immorality
- impurity
- sensuality
- sorcery
- enmity
- strife
- bitterness
- jealousy
- passion
- evil desire
- covetousness (fraud, extortion)
- idolatry
- anger; fits of anger
- rivalries
- dissensions (disunion); divisions
- envy
- drunkenness
- orgies (carousal (letting loose), revelling, rioting)
- wrath (fierceness, indignation)
- malice (trouble, depravity)
- slander
- obscene talk
- lying
- ...things like these

WAR IN THE MIND

While we are living in the flesh (in carnality) we do not and should operate according to the flesh (carnality).

[John 15:19](#) shows us that we are in the world, but not to live according to the world's standards.

We **CANNOT** engage in spiritual warfare with carnal, fleshly strategies. Operating in the flesh reveals a lack of understanding!

Tell me that you can fight spiritual battles with fleshly reason, I will tell you that you lack understanding!

You cannot reason with a demon. The demon would love that, because even they know it's just a waste of time.

You cannot counsel a demon, it must be cast out!

When Jesus engaged with Satan in the desert, he used a sword (the word of God).

There was no back and forth, the word was applied and Satan bowed to the authority of His creator!

2 Corinthians 10:3-7 ESV

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. ⁷ Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we.

Strongholds

- these are areas in our life that have been built up, strengthened, solidified, “safe places”
- these are not pulled down by human intellect or wisdom; they are pulled down and destroyed by the Word of God **applied!**

Destroy καθαίρεσις **kathairēsis**, *kath-ah’ ee-res-is*; demolition, extinction, pulling down [root = to lower]

Arguments λογισμός **lōgismōs**, *log-is-mos*’; computation, reasoning, conscience, imagination, thoughts, false reasoning, wisdom, considerations, counsel

Lofty Opinion ὕψωμα **hupsōma**, *hoop’ -so-mah*; an elevated place or thing, barrier, proud adversary, supernatural power, that which is (or towers) above, exalted, arrogance

Arguments & Lofty Opinions that are against or out of alignment with the **knowledge of God** must be **destroyed!**

› How do we destroy Arguments and Lofty Opinions?

We must have the mind of Christ.

When we have the mind of Christ, we will be unified.

We will be able to spread the good news to a hurt and dying world!