

The Mind:

1. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. –James 1:5

“Let there be more dependence upon the efficiency of the Holy Spirit, and far less upon human agencies. I am sorry to say that at least some have not given evidence that they have learned the lesson of meekness and lowliness in the school of Christ. They do not abide in Christ, they have no vital connection with Him. They are not directed by the wisdom of Christ, through the impartation of His Holy Spirit.” {TM 215.1}

To receive wisdom from God, I must be closely connected to Him and submit my life to His will. Then the promise is sure that God will give me wisdom.

*2. O, my God, I trust in You;
Let me not be ashamed;... Psalm 25:2*

“If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised.”
–DA p. 668

“If we rely completely upon Him, we will never become the sport of circumstances.” ?

The dissertation I am working on is not mine. It belongs to Christ. He led me to the topic He wanted me to pursue and I can trust Him for wisdom in knowing what themes to focus on in the data analysis as well as how those themes should be written up. This is His dissertation. I am just a tool in His hands to record what He wants recorded. He is the Author, I am His scribe.

Prayer: Father, please forgive me of all that is separating me from hearing your “still small voice” in my life and for this dissertation. I give myself completely to You that You might use me as Your tool to record Your words on this research project.

3. And I (God) have filled him (Bezaleel) with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, -Exodus 31:1-3

Just as God filled Bezaleel with His Spirit (which gave him wisdom, understanding, knowledge and workmanship) He is anxious to do the same in me. If I am willing to allow Christ to be Lord over ALL areas of my life, I can be filled with His Spirit as well.

Each time I work on God's dissertation, I must pray to be filled with the Spirit of God. If I do my part in connecting with Him, I will have His gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge and workmanship. It's all about Him.

Prayer: Father, today as I focus on the importance of Adventist schools I pray that you will prompt me to record Your thoughts. It is so important for pastors to understand that our schools have been Ordained by You. Give me Your thoughts that will kindle a fire in their spirits when they read this section. Fill me with "the Spirit of God" so that I to will be filled with Your quality of workmanship and not my own. I pray in Jesus name, Amen.

**4. And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying,
"O, that You would bless me abundantly,
and enlarge my territory,
that Your hand would be with me,
and that You would keep me from evil,
that I may not cause pain!"**

So God granted him what he requested. -1 Chronicles 4:10

The bottom line motive for this dissertation is not to complete a degree, it is to provide information to pastors which will ignite in their hearts a passion for God's ordained plan for Adventist schools. In applying the prayer of Jabez to this project, I am asking my Father to bless me abundantly. I am anxious to count His many blessings as He leads me through the chapters. I know that He will enlarge my territory. I am requesting of Him that someone in the church will take this information, publish it and that it will be used by ministerial directors around the division to train new pastors on Adventist education. Also, that the administration at the seminary will value it and include it in a course on Adventist education that all seminarians must take. I know my Father's hand will be with me and that He will guide me in accumulating and recording according to His will, and that He will watch over me, and protect me from Satan's attempts to de-rail this project. This is all about Him and His will, so I can rest assured that it is going to make a huge difference in changing the apathetic climate most pastors and parents have toward Adventist schools.

Prayer: Father, what I have recorded above is my prayer to you today. Let my life have purpose and meaning as I do this work to Your glory. Make me an authority in the area of Adventist education and give me a passion to share Your information with others and the eloquence to do so. I pray this in the name of Jesus, who is Lord over my life and my thoughts. Amen

**5. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease
While I leave it, and come down to you? -Nehemiah 6:3**

Nehemiah knew that the master of the servant who came to him with a message didn't want to talk, he wanted to kill him. Nehemiah's message back to the master was simply, "I'm doing a very important work. How can I leave it to come down to you." That should be my

response when I sense that Satan is trying to tempt me in diet, or to watching or any other attacks he makes on me. “how can I come down to your level (gluttony and indulgence) when God has called me to this important work.” I sense that God is calling me to do an important work for Him through the dissertation and also through speaking appointments He is giving me. He is giving me a message to share at the teacher’s convention and at the MI Ed. Summit. To prepare for this important assignment, I must have an alert mind and strong body. His ability to work through me is dependent on how much I am submitting all parts of my life to His will. I must have the “MIND OF CHRIST,” if I am going to do the important work He has planned for me to do.

6. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish; but have everlasting life. –John 3:16

Most Christians believe; but they believe what they hear about Him rather than believing IN Him. To believe in Him, means submitting completely your will to Him. It means trusting Him to be in control of every part of your being & obeying Him (and His still small voice) completely. It means giving up self and taking on the mind of Christ to control your thoughts, motives, desires and affections. The thing that draws me to give up control of every part of my life to Him is an understanding of what God and Christ did for me. The thing that keeps me there is when I experience the joy of daily communion with Him and peace that comes from seeing Him win the victories over my sinful desires and habits.

Prayer: Father, I come to You in the name of Your Son this day. I thank both of You for making the ultimate sacrifice – death in my place that I might be entitled to become a joint heir with Christ. I thank You that you have made provision for me to have the “mind of Christ,” which enables me to live a victorious Christian life. Through the presence of Your Holy Spirit in me, I am able to gradually take on the character of Christ. Please work in me today. I offer myself to You, Father. Fill me with the Holy Spirit today that this offering –my sacrifice to You, will be pure and clean. I claim Your life for me today and everlasting life for my future. I love you Father, Son, Holy Spirit and guardian angel. Amen

***Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
-2 Corinthians 10:5***

By standing firm you will gain life. –Luke 21:19 (NIV)

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns; He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burn offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place THE LORD WILL PROVIDE. –Genesis 22:13,14

***My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.
-John 10:27***

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. –Hos. 4:6

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think on these things.
-Philippians 4:8*

God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. –Corinthians 10:12,13

If you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, 4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. 6 *For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. –Proverbs 2:3-5*

*He who has knowledge spares his words,
And a man of understanding
Is of calm spirit. –Prov. 17:27*

**For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight.
-Ec. 2:26**

**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might;
For there is no work, or device or knowledge or wisdom
In the grave where you are going. –Ecclesiastes 9:10**

**As for these four young men, God gave them
Knowledge and skill in all literature and
Wisdom; and Daniel had understanding
In all visions and dreams. –Daniel 1:17
(Note: v12: “test us for 10 days
and let them give us vegetables
to eat and water to drink.)**

**For I (God) desire mercy and not sacrifice
And the knowledge of God
More than burnt offerings.
-Hosea 6:6**

**Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away
The key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves,
And those who were entering in you hindered.
-Luke 11:52**

**And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge,
God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things
Which are not fitting. –Romans 1:28**

(Note: v 27: this a result from practicing homosexuality)

**I count all things loss for the excellence of knowing
of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom
I have suffered the loss of all things, and count
them as rubbish that I may gain Christ.**

-Philippians 3:7

**(Of the Father and of Christ) In whom are hidden
all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

-Colossians 2:3

**But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord
and Savior, Jesus Christ. For now and forever, amen.**

-2 Peter 3:18

***And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and
largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. -1 Kings 4:29***

***Who is this who darkens counsel by words
Without knowledge?***

Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you.

***“Where were you when I laid the foundations of
the earth?***

Tell me, if you have understanding.

-Job 38:2-4 (The Lord reveals His omnipotence to Job)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

And I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding,

And I shall keep Your law.

Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Make me walk in the path of Your Commandments.

-Psalm 119: 33-35

**I am your servant; Give me understanding,
that I may know your testimonies. –Psalm 119:125**

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge (include) Him,**

And He will direct your path. –Psalm 3:5,6

**Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
And the man who gains understanding. –Proverbs 3:13**

**My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
Lend your ear to my understanding. –Proverbs 5:1**

**Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established.
Do not turn to the right or to the left;
Remove your foot from evil. –Proverbs 4:26,27**

**May the Lord give you understanding in all things.
-2 Timothy 2:7**

**Then you will know the truth, and the truth will
Set you Free. –John 8:32 (NIV)**

For we have the MIND OF CHRIST. –1 Cor. 2:16

When I am living in a close relationship with Christ, I am promised that my own thoughts will be heightened and given a special quality by His presence and promptings. This allows me to understand at a deeper level (but not a perfect level as if He were talking with me face to face. The Bible says, “for now we see dimly as through a glass.”) His thoughts and intentions for me and through me. As I continue to grow in grace, God’s motivations and affections increasingly form the basis for our hearts; His love in our love, His faith in our faith etc. More and more we gradually take on the view that God takes. Proverbs20:27 says, “The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of his belly.” God works through my thoughts connecting with His thoughts to help me know right and wrong. It works like a candle on the inside which illuminates every crack and corner of my being to help me see what parts still need to be given to Christ and made clean. Only as I respond to God’s Spirit working within my mind do I grow closer to Him and take on the MIND OF CHRIST. This process of Spirit led self-awareness applies to every part of my life including: family, possessions, health, attitude toward God, sexuality, thoughts of reputation and self glorification etc. We would see more victorious results if we would immediately act on God’s promptings. But much of the time we don’t. As thoughts come into our minds, instead of pausing and asking, “God do you really want me to do/not do this?” we just let the initial thought collapse. God’s still small voice is easily over powered by our thoughts and rather than following God’s promptings of right and wrong, we continue to do our own thing. The same is true when God prompts us to do something for Him. If we don’t pause to listen patiently to the whisper of His Spirit to our thought process, we dismiss His promptings or rough-shod over them with our own desires. **Jeremiah 4:14 says, “How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee.”** Our thoughts can not be trusted. God tells us, **Isaiah 55:8, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts.”** And, “Our hearts are desperately wicked above all things.” Jer. 17:9. The only way God can reach us and change us is through our thoughts (mind). If we choose to push His Spirit’s promptings on our thoughts aside, If we chose to

remain in control of our thoughts, He cannot change them (sanctification) and the words, **“We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.” (Rom. 12:2)** remain very superficial and ineffective. When thoughts recur, stop prayerfully and consider whether this may be an appearance of God’s “candle.” Is He speaking to you. We need to get use to the concept that God walks through our personality with a candle, directing our attention to those things that need to be changed. As we get use to Him doing this work in our lives and seeing that He does this out of love for us and with a desire to make us in the image of Jesus, we will come to the point that David came to when he prayed, **“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.”** When I go to the dentist I want him to examine my teeth to see what needs to be corrected. I need to do likewise with my character. (Ps 139:23) (Some thoughts taken from: *Hearing God* by Dallas Willard)

God has given us a wonderful gift in being able to determine right or wrong ..yes or no in the first few seconds on most matters. When we are in a close relationship with Him, we know the correct answer. Our problem is that we don’t listen to that prompting and act immediately and the longer we don’t act the easier it becomes to dismiss God’s prompting and move on with our own thoughts. When I determine if something is right or wrong in a few seconds and then do not act on it, it becomes a control issue. I have decided to be in control of that matter rather than allowing God to be in control of my heart. How easy it is for me to take the reigns of control back from Him and push Him aside in my thought process.

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