

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Kansas City, Missouri

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

The Mind of Christ

Becoming a Clean Funnel for the Kingdom

“... ‘Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 2:16 (NIV)

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DAY ONE

A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 2:14–16

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

New International Version

Devotional Thought

Decades ago a song climbed the charts with a simple, almost scolding title — Check Out Your Mind. A few years later the nation adopted a slogan it has never quite forgotten: a mind is a terrible thing to waste. Both were aimed at the same tragedy — a human being handed something of immeasurable value, and then squandering it. Scripture tells a more sobering version of that same story. Ephesians says we were once dead in our trespasses and sins, following the course of this world, gratifying the cravings of our flesh, certain all the while that we were right. We had minds, and we wasted them.

When Christ saved us, He gave us far more than a ticket out of judgment. We celebrate salvation, and rightly so. We treasure access to God in prayer and a pathway to righteousness, and we should. Yet there is a gift many of us have never unwrapped — the very mind of Christ. Paul says it plainly: we have the mind of Christ. We have been given the ability to perceive, weigh, and discern as Jesus Himself does. Most of us own this and have never learned to use it, like someone handed a complete set of tools who never discovered what the tools could build.

Think of Peter Parker. Bitten by a radioactive spider, he did not get sick — he was transformed. He spent his first season simply discovering powers he did not know he had, and at first he used them only to benefit himself. It was not until loss broke his heart open that he understood the truth: these abilities were never meant to terminate in him. They were given for the sake of others. The mind of Christ works the same way. It is not a private upgrade. It is a public assignment.

Here, then, is the thesis worth carrying through this entire week: having been given unique access to the mind of Christ, we are charged with using it to advance God’s kingdom and to fulfill His purpose on the earth. This is not for you to hoard; it is for you to channel. Picture yourself as a funnel — something whose entire dignity lies in carrying what is larger than itself and pouring it faithfully into someone else. The question of the week is not whether you have the mind of Christ. If you are in Him, you do. The question is whether anything is flowing through.

“Having been given unique access to the mind of Christ, we are charged with using it — not for ourselves, but for those we serve.”

The mind is a terrible thing to waste. The mind of Christ is a tragedy to leave sealed. Before this week is over, ask the Lord to show you what He has placed in you that has never yet reached another soul.

Personal Reflection

1. *When I consider everything God gave me at salvation, have I treated the mind of Christ as a gift to be used, or as a possession I have never truly opened? Where is the evidence in how I actually make my decisions?*
2. *In what areas of my life am I still “thinking just like everybody else” — defaulting to the patterns and instincts of my old self while assuming all the while that I am right?*
3. *If I genuinely began to live as a funnel rather than a container, what would change first about how I use my time, my words, and my influence this week?*
4. *What is one thing God has clearly poured into me — a truth, a gift, a lesson learned the hard way — that He is asking me to pass on to someone specific in the days ahead?*

DAY TWO

TRANSFORMED, NOT CONFORMED

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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Devotional Thought

To experience the mind of Christ, your mind must be in the process of being transformed by Christ. Notice the tense — not transformed once and finished, but continually being remade. God is shaping you into a funnel He can position in the world, a clean conduit through which He reaches people you may never meet. But there is a rival process already underway. The world has been conforming you for years, pressing you into its mold, telling you what to want and how to think long before you ever thought to ask.

The hardest part of transformation is not believing God's word; it is hearing it over the noise. Picture a quiet evening interrupted — one person trying to follow a documentary, another streaming something on a phone, a FaceTime call wandering through the house, the volume rising on every side until the one voice you actually wanted is drowned out. That is precisely how the enemy works against your communion with God. People who have no interest in your conversation with the Lord will interrupt it with noise, and the noise is rarely evil. It is simply louder.

“People who are not interested in your conversation with God will interrupt it with noise — and the noise is rarely evil. It is simply louder.”

Romans 12:2 names the antidote: stop being conformed to the pattern of this world, and be transformed by the renewing of your mind. But here is the world's clever trick — its patterns always feel new, and God's word always sounds old. We are forever convinced we have discovered something the previous generation missed, until we become that generation and watch our own children dismiss us with the very same confidence. Scripture is honest about this: there is nothing new under the sun. The “new school” and the “old school” are studying the same syllabus; only the names have changed.

This is why Ephesians calls us to put off the old self, corrupted by deceitful desires — the ideas that merely felt like good ideas — and to be made new in the attitude of our minds. Many of us obeyed God for years because a parent's discipline required it; church was simply safer than the street. But there comes a day when the attitude of the mind itself is adjusted, when you no longer come to God because someone has a belt but because your renewed mind has decided that His way is true. That is transformation: not behavior managed from the outside, but a mind remade from within.

You cannot put on the new self while the old self is still being protected. Something has to be surrendered to make room. This week, identify the noise — and turn it down on purpose.

Personal Reflection

- 1. What specific “noise” most reliably drowns out my conversation with God — and am I willing to name it honestly rather than pretend it isn’t there?*
- 2. Where have I mistaken something merely new for something true, chasing a pattern of the world because it felt fresh rather than because it was right?*
- 3. What would it look like this week to deliberately renew my mind in one area where I have simply been conforming — and what input would I have to turn down in order to do it?*
- 4. What piece of the “old self” is God asking me to put off so that there is finally room to put on the new?*

DAY THREE

TO KNOW HIM: THE SURPASSING WORTH

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:7–11

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ — yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

New International Version

Devotional Thought

A funnel is only as good as what is poured into it. That is why the second movement toward the mind of Christ is this: you must passionately seek to know Him — not merely to have heard of Him, but to know Him. The reason is intensely practical. The better you know God, the better you know what belongs in the funnel and what must be kept out. A funnel has no value if the wrong thing is poured into it; in fact, it becomes more destructive, because now the poison has a clear path straight into someone else's life.

“A funnel has no value if the wrong thing is poured into it — and it becomes far more destructive when it does.”

Consider what we have allowed into ourselves over the years. Misinformation we never checked. Bad doctrine we inherited and never questioned. Self-centered perspectives we mistook for wisdom. Think of the well-meaning neighbor convinced that washing the dog in vinegar will solve everything — sincere, confident, and completely wrong. We laugh, until we realize how often we have taken life-altering counsel from voices with no credentials, no study, and no business speaking. The podcaster is not a physician. Personal experience is not Scripture. And a person without God's Spirit, however certain, should not be trusted to tell you what is right and wrong.

Paul understood this better than anyone. He arrived with credentials that would impress any room — pedigree, education, religious standing. Yet in Philippians he counts all of it as loss. Whatever were gains to him he came to regard as garbage, not because those things were worthless in the world's economy, but because they were nothing beside the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord. He no longer wanted to be introduced by his degrees or his neighborhood or his politics. He wanted to be found in Christ.

Hear how far Paul wanted this knowledge to go. He did not stop at knowing about Jesus. He wanted to know the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, to become like Him even in His death, and so somehow to attain the resurrection from the dead. That is not casual acquaintance. That is the pursuit of a lifetime

— to know Christ so deeply that nothing can intimidate you, because you have already learned, in Him, that death itself has been defeated.

When someone asks what matters most about you, what answer rises first? Your title, your résumé, your reputation — or Christ? What you treasure most is exactly what is shaping the funnel.

Personal Reflection

- 1. If I am honest, how much of what I “know” about God is secondhand — heard of, repeated, assumed — rather than known through real relationship with Him?*
- 2. Whose voices have I been allowing to pour into my funnel, and which of them have no business shaping what is right and wrong in my life?*
- 3. What would it cost me, specifically, to begin counting some prized credential or comfort as loss for the sake of knowing Christ more deeply?*
- 4. What is one concrete way this week I will move from knowing about Jesus to knowing Him — in prayer, in Scripture, in obedience that actually costs me something?*

DAY FOUR

THE DIRTY FUNNEL: HEALING A DIVIDED MIND

Scripture Reading

James 1:5–8

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

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Devotional Thought

You cannot experience the mind of Christ while you remain double-minded, because a double-minded person is a dirty funnel. If you use a funnel for oil and then for windshield fluid, the residue of the first contaminates the second. So it is with a divided mind: you pour in a sermon on Sunday and a steady stream of something else all week, and everything that passes through you comes out tainted. The tragedy is that even good things — even the word of God itself — can come out contaminated when the vessel is not clean. People call the church full of hypocrites largely because they have watched truth pour through unclean lives.

So what are we putting in the funnel? Music that insults us while we nod along. Things watched in the dark that we would never want seen in the light. And perhaps most corrosive of all, gossip dressed up as concern — “I’m going to pray for them, so let me tell you what they did.” We blame the little bird, but the bird told us nothing; whoever carried the tale does not fly. James is blunt about the cure: if any of us lacks wisdom, we should ask God, who gives generously without finding fault. The source is not a search engine or a friend’s opinion. It is God Himself.

But James adds a condition that exposes most of us: when you ask, you must believe and not doubt. Hear that carefully — believing and not doubting are two different things. Most of us do not struggle to believe; we struggle to stop doubting. We pray, and then we carry our doubt into the room with us like an uninvited guest. James says the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind, and that such a person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord — not because God is stingy, but because a wave cannot hold what is poured into it.

“Even the word of God can come out contaminated when it passes through an unclean vessel.”

Beneath the double mind lies divided loyalty, and Jesus was unsparing about it: no one can serve two masters. You will love one and despise the other. This is not only about money; it is a principle that touches everything. You cannot have a master in Christ and a second master in the culture, an online pastor and an in-person pastor, the voice of God and the voice of the crowd, all pulling at once. At some point loyalty must choose. The pain of choosing feels like loss, but a divided heart was never going to carry anything clean.

Ask the Lord to show you the residue in your funnel — the loyalty you have never fully surrendered, the doubt you have learned to live with. He is not looking to shame you. He is waiting for a clean vessel He can pour Himself through.

Personal Reflection

1. *What am I actually pouring into my own funnel each day — in what I watch, hear, and repeat — and what is it doing to everything that passes through me to others?*
2. *Where is the line between believing and not doubting in my prayer life? What doubt have I quietly accepted as permanent?*
3. *What divided loyalty is God asking me to resolve — what second master have I been trying to serve alongside Him?*
4. *What is one specific source of contamination I am willing to remove this week so that the truth can flow through me clean?*

DAY FIVE

THE BURIED GIFT: WHEN THE FUNNEL IS STOPPED UP

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:24–30

Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. “Master,” he said, “I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.” His master replied, “You wicked, lazy servant! ... you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

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Devotional Thought

A funnel has a purpose at both ends. It must be open to receive, and open to release. But some of us have funnels stopped up at the bottom — full of what God has given, releasing none of it. The fourth requirement for the mind of Christ is this: you must not hoard what God has placed in you. The Lord hands you something and says, give this to them, and we answer, I think I'll keep this for myself. Then we reason that it would bless our family, then our parents, then a small circle of our own — until everything God meant to send through us has lodged in us and goes nowhere.

Jesus told a story about exactly this. A servant was given a bag of gold and, instead of putting it to work, buried it in the ground. When the master returned, the servant proudly dug it up: see, here is what belongs to you. He had protected the gift and produced nothing. The master's reply was severe — wicked and lazy — because the servant knew the master's heart and still chose to do nothing with what he had been entrusted. At minimum, the master said, you could have put it on deposit so that it would return with interest. Instead, what he had was taken away and given to the one already multiplying what he received.

There is the principle the parable hands us: whoever has will be given more, and whoever does not use what they have will lose even that. This is not God playing favorites. It is the simple physics of a funnel. As long as you keep releasing what God pours in, He keeps pouring more, and you grow. The moment you start holding it, you have stopped being a funnel and become a cup — and a cup can only hold so much. This is why a believer can complain that church has grown boring while sitting on years of unused truth. The boredom is not God running out of things to say. It is a vessel that has stopped passing things on.

“A cup can only hold so much; a funnel can carry an ocean — but only as long as it keeps giving away what it receives.”

So let the question land honestly. How long have you been listening to sermons, reading Scripture, singing the songs? And what has come out the other end? A slow leak left unattended becomes a flat tire overnight, and

eventually a flat tire has to come off the car so the vehicle can move. God is building a kingdom of disciples, and a funnel that never delivers leaves people starving while returning nothing to the One who filled it.

You do not need more input today nearly as much as you need to release what you already carry. Find the person God has been preparing you to reach, and let something finally flow.

Personal Reflection

1. *When I look back over how long I have been receiving from God, what can I honestly point to that has come out the other end and reached another person?*
2. *What is the deeper reason I tend to hold on to what God gives — fear, comfort, or a sense that I haven't "arrived" enough yet to share it?*
3. *If I stopped being a cup and started being a funnel again, who specifically would be on the receiving end this week?*
4. *What is the one thing God has entrusted to me that I have buried — and what would it look like to dig it up and put it to work?*

DAY SIX

THE STRATEGY OF THE FUNNEL: INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 2:1–7

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. ... Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

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Devotional Thought

We arrive where the whole week has been pointing. A funnel exists for one primary purpose: to take something far bigger than itself and channel it into someone else. So the final requirement for living in the mind of Christ is that you become intentional and strategic in discipleship. This is not accidental, occasional, or left to chance. Paul tells Timothy to take the things he has heard in the presence of many witnesses and entrust them to reliable people who will in turn be able to teach others. Notice the chain — Paul to Timothy, to reliable people, to others still. That is the kingdom's design, and you are a link in it.

Notice, too, where Paul tells Timothy to invest: in reliable people who can carry it forward, not in endless argument. Too many believers take their funnel onto the internet and pour their best energy into winning fights with strangers, when that same investment, poured into one teachable life, would multiply for generations. If you post more about Christ online than you pour into the life of an actual person in front of you, something has gone wrong with the strategy. Arguing with someone who does not yet know Jesus produces noise; discipling someone willing to know Him produces disciples who make disciples.

“If you post more about Christ online than you pour into the life of one person in front of you, you are doing it wrong.”

Paul reaches for the image of a soldier: no one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather aims to please his commanding officer. The discipler refuses to be drawn into every offense and distraction. If you walk into a room and no one greets you and you decide never to return, you have become the problem; smile and speak until the Holy Spirit has something to work with. A soldier on mission does not abandon the objective to settle a personal slight. He keeps his eyes on the One who enlisted him.

This is why Paul could say elsewhere that he labored to present everyone fully mature in Christ — admonishing and teaching with all wisdom, carefully, strategically, on purpose. That is the goal toward which a clean, open, undivided funnel is aimed: not merely to feel full, but to bring others all the way to maturity, until a watching culture begins to say, “I get it” — until holiness belongs to God alone and lives are genuinely changed. The mind

of Christ was never given so that you could feel enlightened. It was given so that God's bigness could pass through your small life and land, life-changing, in someone else.

A mind is a terrible thing to waste — and never more so than when it is the mind of Christ left sealed inside you. Choose one person. Invest on purpose. Let the funnel do what it was made to do.

Personal Reflection

1. *Am I being intentional and strategic about discipleship, or have I left the passing-on of my faith to chance and convenience?*
2. *Where am I spending energy on argument or distraction that would bear far more fruit if invested in one teachable person?*
3. *Who is the "reliable person" God may be placing in front of me to pour into — and what would a deliberate, ongoing investment in them look like?*
4. *What is God asking me to commit to this week so that what He has poured into me does not stop with me, but reaches someone who will carry it on to others?*

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we come to You at the end of this week aware of a gift we have too often left unopened. You did not merely rescue us from death; You gave us the very mind of Christ. Forgive us for treating so great a treasure so carelessly — for owning the tools and never learning to build, for carrying Your truth and letting it go nowhere. We confess that a mind is a terrible thing to waste, and we have wasted much.

Lord, transform us. We are weary of being conformed by a world that shouts while You speak. Quiet the noise that has drowned out our conversation with You. Renew our minds until we no longer chase what is merely new but treasure what is true, no longer obey out of fear but out of a heart genuinely changed from the inside. Make us new in the very attitude of our minds.

Teach us to know You — not to have heard of You, but to know You. We lay down our credentials, our reputations, and our need to be introduced by anything but Your name. Like Paul, let us count it all as loss beside the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. And as we know You more, cleanse the funnel. Search out the residue of doubt and divided loyalty, the gossip and the contamination we have allowed to pass through us. We cannot serve two masters; today we choose You.

Forgive us, Father, for what we have buried. Forgive the slow leaks we ignored and the gifts we hid in the ground while people around us went hungry. We do not want to be cups that can only hold so much; make us funnels again, open to receive and open to release. Pour into us, and let it flow — into our families, our neighbors, and the reliable ones You are placing in our path.

And so, Lord, make us intentional. Keep us from wasting on argument and distraction what was meant for discipleship. Help us choose the one person in front of us and invest on purpose, until the mind of Christ in us has reached another, and another, and the watching world begins to say, “I get it.” We offer ourselves as willing funnels — clean, open, undivided, and available. Use what You have placed in us to advance Your kingdom and to fulfill Your purpose on the earth.

In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.