

## SUPERNATURAL

We are graced to give; supernaturally empowered out of encounter with God, the hearing of His Word and our application of truth. This applies to all aspects of our lives and is dynamically multiplied in a selfless life; a life led by the Spirit of God.

We are graced to think like Jesus; supernaturally empowered out of encounter with God, the hearing of His Word and our application of truth. Jonah knew to **cling** to worthless idols forfeits grace (forfeits supernatural empowerment); Jesus said that it is the truth we **cling** to that makes us free indeed. Worthless idols can often be our perceptions, or issues we have not thought through.

We are created in Christ Jesus to do good works that He has prepared in advance for us to walk in. One of those good works is thinking like Jesus: since the blood of Christ has cleansed our conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Hebrews 9:14).

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 makes it clear our mind can be a battlefield as we are to take **every** thought captive and make it obedient to Christ; not just a thought here and there. We must bring our minds into gear; if we can self-control our thoughts (and we can since one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (manifestation of His character through us) is self-control) we can handle all things well.

Jesus Himself, though He was a Son, learned obedience through the things He suffered. This means He understood the purpose in the suffering. Hebrews 5:8-9

1 Peter 4:1-2: 'Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, <sup>2</sup> that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.'

We are to arm ourselves with the same mind as Christ – we are to equip ourselves the same 'weapons' He used in order to fulfil our lives according to God's plans and purposes.

'mind' here is 'nous' – defined: the same thoughtfulness, the same understanding (application of truth), the same intent as Christ. This is evidenced with external situations in 2 Corinthians 4 and within ourselves as taught in Philippians 2 (our character).

Externals: 2 Corinthians 4

- they were troubled (crowded, afflicted, thronged from the outside) but not distressed (not feeling hemmed in)
- they were at times perplexed (when it looks like there is no way out) but never in despair (never choosing to believe that there is no hope)
- they were persecuted/pursued but never forsaken (never allowed themselves to feel left behind by God)
- they were cast down/thrown down but they never allowed themselves to feel lost or perished

Paul acknowledged that whatever happened to them was for their sakes, that the purpose of the life of Christ would always be evident. V13: they accomplished this with the same spirit of faith as Christ (with the same attitude of mind as Christ) and therefore spoke what they believed (knowing in the minds what was true). They accepted the externals with thanksgiving 'knowing' that their light and momentary afflictions were working for them, achieving a greater weight of glory *while* they kept their eyes on things eternal, not temporary. V16: they fainted not: armed with the purposes of God and the ability to think like Christ they did not weaken, fail or grow weary - in taking every thought captive and making it obedient to Christ they were inwardly renewed daily.

Our character: Philippians 2 – Paul says his joy was complete when believers were like minded, had one mind – were one in spirit and purpose. There are major truths being challenged in our times. According to Philippians 2, our identity, our reputation, our motivation, our ambition, whose needs are served first, our attitude, and ultimately what we hold to is in Christ.

We are not experience oriented, we are Word based, motivated and directed. This is some of the power of thinking like Jesus.