



...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

January 23, 2012

Dear friends,  
Greetings again in the wonderful name of Jesus!

**Let it be done to me according to Your Word!**

(Continued from last month's letter)

I wrote in our December 12 letter about seeing the two most important truths of the gospel as a two sided coin. On one side of the coin, it would say, "Christ is in me." On the other side, it would say, "I am in Christ." Nothing is more important to you as a child of God than to believe this truth. This is the foundation of the mind of Christ, the mind of the Father, and the mind of the Holy Spirit. Your main task as a believer is to think like God: to agree with Him, to say, "Yes Sir. You said it, I believe it." This is first of all an action of humility, and then faith will come.

As I also wrote, (now use your imagination!) I wish there was a little slot in your head where I could insert this two sided gospel coin until it drops down with a "click, click" inside your head. In other words, that the truth would be implanted inside your brain, and your mind would go "Click, click: Oh now I see it!" -- so that all you would believe is: "I am in Christ, and Christ is in me". "I am in Christ, and Christ is in me!" "I AM IN CHRIST AND CHRIST IS IN ME!" Compulsive thinking in the right direction, I would call it!

Oh, what a change there would be in each one of us, if that voice of Truth drowned out every lying voice, and it was always in charge of your mind!

That's the job of the Holy Spirit to make that happen. (John 16:14) Your job is to keep letting him do it through His Word. Let it happen until you know that you know that you know the truth of Christ in you is more true than anything!

...because it is.

This is the rock bottom reality for every Christian. That's who you are. You are joined to Christ, and He is joined to you. That's where you draw your

"Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance, the very ends of the earth Your possession." Ps.:2:8

strength, that's where faith comes from. Faith comes from Truth. You can't have faith without believing the Truth. Faith is not a feeling, faith is an agreement with the truth as God sees it. And you can do this! Just say this, "I'm a believer! And I agree with God! And in any way that I disagree, that's going to change!"

When I got filled with the Holy Spirit, I realized I had a problem with my thoughts. I could not trust my thoughts very well. Actually, I was a young pastor. I remember when the Lord showed me where the root of my thinking was to be. I had always thought my mind was anchored in my head. But I found that my mind is to be anchored in the written

Word of God, the Bible. My head needs to be filled up with what is in the Bible. (This was after eight years of Bible College and university.)

As a young pastor, I made a discipline for myself. When people come to a pastor, they hope he knows everything. When pastoring, people would ask me, "What do you think about this or that?"

I learned to say, "Well, to tell you the truth, I don't know. I have to find out what I think about that. I'll go look it up in God's Word. I'll find out in His Word what I think. In fact I encourage you to do the same thing, since you don't really need to know what I think. What you really need to know is what God thinks!"

That's what people really are asking for. If you're going to lead people, you need to have a discipline on your speech, so you do not parrot back your own opinions about people's problems. Remember, they are not saved by your opinions, but by God and His Word!

Frequently I would do something that looked silly, especially in my prayer time. I would open the Bible and put it on my head, and walk around my office saying, "This is my mind!"

**John's travel to Ukraine:  
Feb 8 - March 1  
Preaching, teaching, evangelizing, praying,  
counseling, spending time with pastors and  
leaders, visiting various Churches of Praise,  
working side by side with Pastor Gregory,  
having a great time with our dear Churches  
of Praise, friends for 19 years since we  
helped them to begin. This is trip #55.  
3/4 of the funds are still needed.**

Of course, God has a stronger idea than putting the Book on my head. He wants the words of the Book to be IN my head, not on my head!

The Word of God is alive. It does not just exist as the letters on the page. If somebody burned all the Bibles, the Word of God would still exist! The Truth would still be the truth!

But thank God, it's written! Every day it says the same thing! Thank God for that.

### **The "Big Three" for you in Ephesians 4:22-24**

**Big Number One:** Ephesians 4:22 ALWAYS says "*Lay aside the old self*". From God's side, the old self is a dead man. From God's side, He already put him to death. He's just a corpse lying there. All we can do is bury the thing! It was the power of God that killed that old nature, not YOUR power. Jesus fought that flesh and Jesus won the battle. Just LAY aside the old flesh. Give him a decent burial. Water baptism signifies the burial of your old flesh, and your resurrection into the new life of Christ.

This old nature is not your life anymore. You have a new life. So be renewed in your thinking.

**Big Number Two:** Ephesians 4:23 ALWAYS says, "*Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*"

What spirit is in your mind? What spirit is inspiring your thoughts? As an example, your mind can be inspired with the spirit of fear and worry.

Have you ever been driven in your thinking by anxiety? I have. My mind can be very imaginative. I can create an entire movie in my head in a few seconds, a great drama about everything terrible that's going to happen. Just BOOM, and there it is in my head!

But God did not intend your imagination to be used to dream up disaster! He created your imagination to imagine the Truth; to imagine the power of God working, to imagine the world from God's perspective. Therefore, you need to check out what spirit is inspiring your mind. If it's the wrong one, you have authority over it. You are not your mind. You are spirit. Your mind is a tool and a servant and you have the power to put your thoughts under obedience to your spirit, to the truth of God.

Many of us have these problems and don't realize that we have a very proud mind. No, we don't act proud or feel proud. A proud mind is like this: "If I think it, it has to be true! How can it not be true? How can it be in my mind and not be true?"

A proud mind can be such an extreme problem that people can end up in a mental hospital, because they put so much confidence in their imaginations! Proud thoughts can be full of fear, shame or hopelessness; some proud thinking, instead of making you feel proud, can make you feel miserable!

The answer is to humble your mind; insist on your

mind bowing to the truth of God – that He loves you, that He will take care of you, that He never puts you to shame. These are His covenant promises. (See Romans 8:31-39)

You don't need great faith to take hold of those great promises; you need to humble your mind. You are not God, you are not the Creator. He is. If He promised to love you and take care of you, your response as His creature is to say, "Yes Sir. You are the Creator, I am not. You are God, I am not. I humble myself under Your Truth, under your ideas and your promises. If you said it, that is good enough for me." That is not great faith; that is humility of mind.

Your mind is like a computer; it may have good things in it or it might not! It depends on what has been put into it. Sometimes I think of my mind as a battlefield, and there are armies of thoughts marching through, and I have to decide which army I'm going to join! I must choose to take sides with my army of choice (God's army of ideas in His Word), and I'm going to drive out that other army of lies -- EVERY thought that is contrary to the Word of God. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Like a computer, sometimes you have to reinstall the operating system and reload the software. God's covenant Word is the operating system of your mind. How you think about everything in life depends on laying everything on that foundation.

There is nothing more powerful than the blood of Jesus to cleanse your mind and conscience from old dead ideas that bind you to darkness and defeat. There is nothing more powerful than the covenant promises of God to light up your heart and mind and give you hope and faith and peace and wisdom and courage to look ahead, with expectation of grace and mercy and goodness following you all the days of your life!!

You CAN be renewed in the spirit of your mind through the washing power of the Word. Though you don't know how to do that by yourself, God knows how to renew your mind! Ask Him to renew the spirit of your mind. Then 1) keep your mind in His Word, 2) keep honoring His blood over your mind, and 3) keep inviting the Holy Spirit to help.

You just need to stay with Him; don't run away from Him. Stay in this presence, don't let anything keep you from the presence of God. God does the work. He's the Savior -- not only of your spirit; He is also the Savior of your mind, and your body.

**Big Number Three:** Ephesians 4:24 ALWAYS declares the third thing we need to do, which is "*Put on the new self*". Put off the old man, laying him aside just like taking off your old coat. From God's side He's done all the work, that old man died with Christ. Just take him (or her) off like a dirty old gar-

ment cast it aside. You do this by faith in the truth. With the **Big Number Two** done, a renewed spirit in your mind, how do you think? You've got that gospel coin planted in your mind, and it renewed your thinking. Now your thinking is constantly, "Christ is in me and I'm in Christ". "Christ is in me and I'm in Christ". "Christ is in me and I'm in Christ". (Colossians 1:27-29)

You are now agreeing with God! You now believe "What the Word says is what is true about me; and since Christ is in me, I'm a new creature". From the point of receiving a renewed spirit in your mind, doing the **Big Number Three**, putting on the new self, is like putting on the new clothing that matches who you know you are! You know who you are, and you know that this new life of God belongs to you! You're putting on the truth that you believe! You know that God provided it all, and so you put it on.

Romans 13:14: " *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh.*" You take the truth and put it on -- in your thoughts, your meditations, your convictions, your words, and your actions -- just like you put on your new coat!

I realize that talking about these things in this way may seem too easy. When you are in the middle of a temptation or a crisis, it seems as if that old self is screaming at you! How come this dead guy is screaming at me? Well the fact to remember is this: you still live in a body which is a natural body and still only has the natural life in it. There still remains the old nature in the members of your body. That's what Romans 7 and 8 teach us.

The new nature is in your spirit. Romans 8:10 says your spirit is alive but your body is dead. God means your body is spiritually dead. But your spirit is alive and well and in charge! For this reason, through the members of your body (your brain is a member of your body) you can get screamed at from the dead and dark flesh. But in the name and blood of Jesus you can silence these false voices of the flesh. "Old dead flesh, shut up!"

This morning that old flesh was saying to me, "Just don't even get out of bed! Just lay here. Feed me. Be good to me." That was the voice of that old self-centered flesh that comes from the body.

Who are you? You are not your body! Again, you are not your body! "Body, get up and serve God!"

You live in your body. You need your body. It's like a spacesuit that you need if you're going to be in outer space. If you don't have your spacesuit on, you'll just blow up and die!

But if you are going to live on the earth, you need your Earth suit! That is your body, your Earth suit. You, however, are a human spirit. If you went outside and WHAM!, a car hit you and your body died, you would still exist. Your spirit would be there.

Maybe not long; the Lord would probably take you quickly to heaven, but you would still be you.

That's who you are. You are a spiritual person. Do you see yourself that way? That's part of the change that renews the spirit of your mind. Your body serves you and your mind serves you; but who are you? *You are the one joined to Christ!*

And for this reason, you can "put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh". The only provision needed for the flesh is burial. And that is what happened to your flesh when Jesus was buried. The old you was buried with Him. And when He was raised from the dead, you were raised up with Him to a new life in God. That is what is true about you the moment you come into Christ and Christ comes into you through the new birth.

*"I'm a new creation, I'm a brand new man;  
Old things are passed away, I've been born again;  
More than a conqueror, that's who I am;  
I'm a new creation, I'm a brand new man."*

by David Ingles

### **January 6, 2012: Passing to heaven of a Ukrainian pastor, evangelist and friend, Pasha Sobol.**

Pasha served in the Afghan war in the early eighties, was run over by a truck, and another time the straps of his backpack were shot off by passing bullets. He survived all that and sixteen years ago, radically turned his life to Jesus Christ. A long-time Churches of Praise evangelist and church planter, Pasha had opened a new church in Krivoy Rog 18 months ago.

He preached in his young church until the Sunday before he unexpectedly went to heaven from cancer discovered only a few weeks ago.

He went to glory with "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus....." on his lips. He brought hundreds of people to the Lord, and many were healed. Nina, Pasha's wife, will lead the church in his place.

### **A continual thanks to you...**

40 years of ministry, 25 years of missions, and the fact remains that we would be able to do little or nothing without friends like you who pray for us and support us financially. Every month needs miracles and offerings that surprise us. We appreciate you and are privileged to have you as a friend of this ministry.

With love,  
**John and Jackie**

