



# The Word at Work

## Growing Up Spiritually: The Mind and the Spirit

### Reading the Word

**Key Scriptures:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:19

### **Key Points:**

The mind is a good servant but a bad master. It needs to be submitted to the Spirit and not seek to dominate.

Dominance of the mind can be seen in:

1. the wisdom of this world/philosophy of this age
2. religious versions:
  - a. religious intellectualism – doctrine without power
  - b. claims to special mystical knowledge or insights (Col.2:18)

Compare those dominated by the mind to those filled with the Spirit:

- arrogance vs. genuine humility
- independence vs. dependence and teachability
- over-analysis vs. healthy self-awareness of own limitations
- heaviness vs. lightness of spirit

The root of the bad fruit in the mind dominated person is PRIDE.

1. Paul warns that ‘knowledge puffs up’ (1 Cor.8:1-3)
2. Eve took of the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge because it ‘was desirable for making her wise.’ (Gen.3:6)

Two things strike at the root of the mind dominated ‘tree’

1. The power of the CROSS
  - a. Its not about us and what we can do
  - b. Salvation is entirely by grace so no-one can boast!

2. The power of the SPIRIT
  - a. So faith rests not on man’s wisdom but on God’s power.

The answer is not to reject the mind but to renew the mind.

In fact the renewed mind is the key to the supernatural power of the Kingdom being seen on earth.

- We have to repent (change our thinking) so that we can lay hold of the Kingdom that is at hand (Matt.4:17)
- The renewed mind results in transformation/transfiguration – i.e. the glory and power of the Kingdom seen on earth (Rom.12:2; Matt.16:28-17:8)

We need to change the way we think – not just in terms of our intellect, but, for example, from:

- ‘It’s impossible’ to ‘all things are possible.’
- ‘I failed in the past’ to ‘I will succeed in the future.’
- ‘What if it doesn’t work?’ to ‘what if it does?’
- ‘Will I look a fool? To ‘will people see the power of Jesus?’

It is this renewed thinking that will help release the power of the kingdom into our world!

### Doing the Word

#### **To Discuss:**

1. Why do you think that the mind can be such a stumbling block for so many people?
2. How do we make sure that our mind is being the servant and not the master?

#### **To Do:**

1. Determine to change your thinking and have a go at praying for the sick and stepping out in new ways to see God’s power come.

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