

Recoding The Brain – Part 12

(Be Not Double Minded)

Wisdom is different from knowledge. We all receive the knowledge of right and wrong the moment we are born again. God writes His laws in our mind and on our heart when we are recreated with a new spirit made in the image of Christ. We instantly know lying, stealing, fornication, adultery and many such things ... are wrong. We know it instantly. Nobody has to teach us.

Wisdom is the practical application of knowledge. When the apostle James wrote about wisdom in his epistle, the people were under severe persecution. They needed wisdom from God individually, and collectively as groups in various cities. Should we stay here? Should we move somewhere else? Should we meet publicly? Privately? They needed instruction from God.

In my own life, not under severe persecution, I have needed wisdom from God. Lord, what would you have me do? I needed to know the what, where, when, and how to do it. We all need wisdom to know what our Lord would have us do in His kingdom.

A good example from the Word is when Paul and Silas had finished an assignment in Acts chapter sixteen. They didn't know what to do next. They were pondering various places to go like Ephesus, or perhaps Bithynia. The Holy Spirit gave Paul a vision in the night that told them very specifically to go to Macedonia. Hallelujah! That is the kind of wisdom we all need. His job is to lead. Our job is to follow.

James 1:5-8 KJV If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. [6] But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. [7] For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. [8] A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

The first instruction is to ask God for His wisdom. Many people don't do that. Later on in this same letter, James cautions a group of businessmen for making plans without asking God's wisdom first.

James 4:13-16 KJV Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: [14] Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. [15] For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. [16] But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

The correct attitude to have is, if the Lord will, we shall live! How fundamental is that? Find out what the Lord wills and then go do that. That is living by God's wisdom. God gives His wisdom liberally. Like the song says, He is a good, good Father. He is not withholding His wisdom from you. If you ask for His wisdom regarding what to do, He will give it to you, and He will give it to you liberally.

And He upbraideth not. He doesn't treat you like you are stupid for asking. In fact, He thinks you are smart if you have enough sense to come and ask Him for His wisdom. And it SHALL be given him. I love the word SHALL. Not maybe so. Not sometimes. If you ask, it SHALL. If you ask, it SHALL be given to you. What a promise!

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. When James mentions wavering like the wind and waves of the sea, I am almost sure he was thinking about the time when Peter walked on the water. He was supernaturally walking on the water until he got his eyes off Jesus and on to the circumstances ... the wind and the waves. The command of Jesus for Peter to "come" had not changed. The circumstances had not changed regarding the wind and the waves. What changed was what Peter was focusing on. Jesus and the Word? Or the wind and the waves? Jesus asked him later, "Why did you doubt?" Let's do some in-depth study of what causes doubt in today's lesson.

What is a double minded man? We have been studying the difference between the natural, gray-matter, three and half pound brain and the spiritual mind you receive when you are born again. When you are born again, you receive a mind that is created in the image of Christ's mind. We have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor 2:16)

Last week we studied in detail the difference between your spiritual mind and your gray-matter brain. The gray-matter brain is important. It has useful functions in this natural world. It believes what it sees, touches, smells, hears, and tastes. Even the

apostles, before they were born again, were not willing to believe the report of eyewitness testimony who told them Jesus had risen from the dead. They were not born again yet, and their natural brain would not believe until they saw the risen Christ for themselves. Jesus had told them ahead of time that He would rise from the dead ... but they STILL were not willing to believe it until they saw Him with their own eyes. We all know how the gray-matter brain works. "I will believe it when I see it."

John 20:29 KJV Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

The Greek carries the meaning, "Even more blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

How is it possible that people like us have believed, without having seen? It is because of the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit helping us by drawing us to Jesus when the gospel is preached. Otherwise, we would reject it just like the apostles did. They didn't believe the eyewitness testimony of others. We wouldn't believe it either without the Holy Spirit drawing us.

John 6:44 KJV No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Let's talk about what causes being double minded. After you are born again you've got a spiritual mind on the inside of you that is capable of believing things that are beyond the Newtonian physical laws of this universe. Those Newtonian laws are important, and we use them to make everything from ships to cars to computers. Everything. They include all of our natural physical laws like force equals mass times acceleration, $E=mc^2$. We thank God for allowing us to understand the physical laws of this universe so we can use them to our benefit. God gave us the natural brain to use in this natural world. I don't have to pray about when to change the oil in my car. I have that sort of knowledge in my natural brain. The gray-matter brain is a great tool to use in this natural world.

But you and I are children from another world. We live in this world, but we are from another world. Our citizenship is in heaven.

Philippians 3:20 AMPC But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly and patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior.

God has called His children to a supernatural walk while on planet earth. He said we would do the same supernatural works that He did.

John 14:12 KJV Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

That means the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the maimed are made whole, etc. That requires a supernatural walk. We are going to have to learn to walk according to our spiritual mind instead of the gray-matter brain, or else we will always be limited to the natural physics of this world.

Let's think about the mind of Jesus Christ. When the disciples were struggling to cross the lake in a boat during a severe storm, Jesus was made aware of it. Jesus was on the shore, at night, without a boat. The storm was raging, and his disciples were in trouble. Jesus said He only did what He saw the Father do, and He only said what He heard the Father say. "What would you have me do?" The instruction came (somehow), "Walk on the water and go over there to them." That is a supernatural instruction for the spiritual mind. "Walk on the water." Jesus had a gray-matter physical brain just like us. Don't you know there was another voice from the gray-matter brain immediately that said something like, "You can't walk on the water. It's impossible." It will start listing all of the physical laws about density, and mass, and formulas and equations with the end result being ... YOU CAN'T DO THAT! Those thoughts will come at you so fast like machine gun bullets.

Sue and I are very familiar with that natural brain's reasonings. It has tried its best to talk us out of just about everything God has ever told us to do. "That's impossible. Nobody does it like that. That will not work. You can't function that way. You didn't hear God. You are stupid!" You can't let that natural brain be the lord of your life. It is a good tool, and it is very useful as a servant to your spiritual mind. But it is not supposed to run your life. You, child of God, are supposed to get your instructions from the Lord via the Holy Spirit.

It would be as foolish as picking up one of your calculators at home and asking it for direction in your life. Can you imagine holding a calculator in your hand and asking it what should you do to obey God? Ridiculous, but that is what we do every time we let natural reasonings talk us out of doing the supernatural things God calls us to do.

Jesus said the kingdom of God is at hand, meaning it is available. The physical laws of the kingdom of God supersede the Newtonian physical laws of this universe. This natural world was created from the spiritual realm. That means the laws of that spiritual realm are greater than the physical laws of this natural world. Being double minded is when you give equal weight to both minds. It will paralyze you concerning obeying God every time.

Living by the Spirit's instruction does take some practice. I've never known anybody who did not make some mistakes when it comes to hearing God. We laughingly call those "taking our trips to the barber shop" around here. All it means is you thought you heard God, acted on it, and found out that wasn't Him. Welcome to the club. I have certainly taken my trips to the barber shop and so has everyone I personally know. But please understand, your Father appreciates your heart that wants to hear and obey Him. He is bigger than any mistake you make. He will help you and will encourage you to keep on trying to hear and obey Him better.

In the early days when the Lord told us to go full time, we had no income at all. This was long before I knew I was not a pastor, so my natural mind thought I would probably pastor a church, receive offerings, perhaps sell the messages on cassette tapes, include an appeal letter with a return envelope ... pretty much everything I had seen other churches do most of my Christian life. I'm not against any of those things, but the Lord's instructions for us were the opposite of all those things.

He said to us, *"Don't ever let another human know of any of your personal needs or any ministry needs. If you will obey me in this, I will speak to the hearts of the people I choose to support both you and the needs of the ministry."*

We obeyed Him and He has been doing that for over twenty-five years. We are not wealthy, but we have a roof over our head, we have two nice cars in the driveway,

there is food in the refrigerator, we have gasoline in the cars, and so forth. He has provided every need just like He said He would all these years. Shock alert for the church! GOD DOES WHAT HE SAYS!

What causes being double minded? When you ask for God's wisdom, sometimes you will receive instruction from above that will require the involvement of the physics of heaven to override the physical laws of this earth. Your spiritual mind is okay with that, but the natural brain will never think it is possible. The spiritual mind decides it is going to obey God. The natural mind says that it is foolishness. Double minded!

The word "supernatural" simply means the physics of the realm of the Spirit are being imposed on the natural physics of this fallen world. We must remember that what is supernatural to us is simply normal for God. It's almost like He would be bored doing a "miracle" because for Him it's just "another day at the office." God would say, I'm just doing what I always do. To God it is completely normal. To us on earth it is miraculous.

What if Noah had been double minded? Even working diligently, it took Noah and his sons about one hundred years to build the ark. What if Noah is all gung-ho about building the ark one day, but the next day he doubts whether he even heard God or not. Being double minded would have stopped the ark from being built at all and we would not find Noah's name in the "hall of fame of faith" in Hebrews chapter eleven. Worse than that, there would be no humans on earth because the human race would have been wiped out by the flood.

Tongues and Interpretation:

"It shall be so easy for you to discern the difference between the mind of Christ and the natural mind of this world. It is only difficult in the beginning because you have grown up, the vast majority of your life, being led by the servant, the natural mind of this world. These things are just new to you, but with practice and experience and growth and maturity, walking according to the spirit will become very easy. And you will easily discern the voice of doubt. You will easily discern the voice of that second mind, that is not of My mind, says the Lord. So receive this wisdom. Receive this truth and begin to step out because the more you practice listening, hearing, and obeying My voice, the easier it will be for you to discern the voice of the natural man. You will discount the natural and walk with Me in the

supernatural, says the Lord. You shall do the same works. You shall do the same works, says the Lord."

I remember the early days when Sue and I were learning how to operate in the gifts of the Spirit. Oftentimes when those instructions come, they are not of this world. One time we were ministering in this little church in Ocala, Florida. At the end of the service there was a prayer line, and we were praying for the people one by one. Everything was going normally until I came to this beautiful little southern belle lady. She was about seventy years old, perfectly coiffed hair, immaculately dressed.

I am about to pray for her when I hear the Lord say, *"Put your finger in her mouth."* Immediately my natural gray-matter brain protested with all sorts of arguments such as, "No, I can't do that. When was the last time I washed my hands? That's not sanitary. I can't do that." I'm telling you; those thoughts of doubt came faster than machine gun bullets. "All of these people are watching me. What are they going to think. I can't put my finger in that woman's mouth." This all happens within you so very fast, even though it seems like an eternity.

I still haven't prayed for her, and I hear it the second time, *"Put your finger in her mouth."* The natural brain protested again saying, "What? I can't do that. I don't even know her. What will people think? They'll never invite me back here again." I say again, those thoughts came from my natural brain fast like machine gun bullets. The servant (the gray-matter brain) is trying to get up on the horse and be the lord. Again, all of this was happening very fast within me.

I still haven't prayed for her, and I hear something a little different this time, *"Are you going to obey Me or not?"* I knew it was Him, so I started negotiating with the lady. I asked her if she wanted me to obey God. She said she did. I asked her if she was sure. She said she was. (But of course, she didn't know what I was about to do.) I gently opened her mouth, placed my finger in her mouth and prayed. To this day, I have no idea what words I spoke. Ha!

In my mind, since I had done this "mighty deed" by obeying God, it would seem reasonable that the ceiling would open up, and liquid sunshine should pour though, I should feel the brush of an angel's wing across my cheek, and hear Gabriel blow his trumpet. That's what I would have liked, but nothing happened that any of us

could see. She didn't get mad at me. She was very nice about it, and I simply moved on to pray for the next person in line.

Fast forward one year and we were scheduled to preach in that same church again. That same lady could not attend this time because one of her grandchildren was graduating the same night we would be ministering. She sent word to the pastor to let me know that she had suffered her whole life with many cold sores in her mouth and lips. But since that night when I put my finger in her mouth and prayed, those cold sores have been reduced by about eighty percent. She wanted me to know it had made a difference in her life when I obeyed God. Hallelujah! (Why it was not one hundred percent healing, I don't know. But eighty percent is better than nothing.) I am glad I obeyed Him. I have obeyed Him since, doing even more "embarrassing" things. I am glad I obeyed those times too.

Operating by the gifts of the Spirit is very good, but He is wanting to mature us to where we can serve directly from the Father's table by Christ in us. Because of Jesus, the Father's table has been prepared for the world. Jesus functioned that way. He asked the blind man, "What would you have me do for you?" (Mark 10:51) Meaning, "What do you want? I can serve you anything from My Father's table." That is the level of maturity He wants in us.

Thank God for the gifts of the Spirit, but there is a more excellent way that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians chapter thirteen. It is maturing into love. Paul says, "When I was a child, I thought as a child, I spoke as a child, I acted as a child." But when I became a man ... or you could say ... when I grew up ... when I matured, I put away childish things. Thank God for the gifts of the Spirit. He can use you in the gifts today. But there is a maturity where He is bringing us. There is a maturing in the body of Christ where we will stand in front of the Father's table and serve the people whatever they need by Christ in us. Jesus has provided it all.

It is turmoil in the beginning of walking by the spiritual mind because it is new to you. It was for us too. But after walking this way for so long, let me share with you there is such peace we walk in now. We know Him much better than we did then, We trust Him more than we did then. You can be in perfect peace right in the midst of the storm. It's one thing to read about God. It is another thing to know your Father by experience. The more you know Him, the more you walk in peace.