

**IMA Video Connect every 3rd
Thursday of each month
at 10AM Central Time.
Contact IMA Home Office
for more info.**

**Upcoming Spring Conference
North Central Dist.
Thurs—Fri, April 21-22, 2022
World Harvest Church
Rice Lake, WI
Speaker: Mickey Robinson
Register online at
www.worldharvestusa.com/
IMA**

**To post events in the
IMA Newsletter, please
send info to IMA Home
Office two months prior.**

RETRO ARTICLE

Mindset Toward Those Who Oppose Herald of Truth; NOV 1959

No one can be a New Testament Christian and fight back, talk back, or in any way try to get even. The only way to get even, yes, ahead, is to ignore an insult; refuse to brood over wrongs. Listen to Jesus, "I say unto you, That ye resist not evil" (Matthew 5:39). Under no circumstance are we to resist evil, that is, in the spirit of retaliation or revenge.

We are to resist the devil, sin, and temptation, but not evil in the spirit of revenge.

To resist evil in the wrong spirit is to assist evil, for evil thrives in the soil of resistance. We are commanded to overcome evil with good, to turn the other cheek, go the second mile, give your persecutor your cloak also, go out of your way to do

an enemy a favor. (See Matthew 5).

I do not know of any better earmark by which to judge a person's piety than his attitude toward those who oppose him, slander him, and in every way, try to throw mud on his character.

May God help us as disciples of Christ to hold a high standard.

We tremendously need a revival of the supernatural. Nothing but a great visitation of the grace of God can in any wise redeem these present perilous hours. Impending disasters warn us. God's Word warns us. The Holy Spirit warns us. "It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law... Revive Thy work in the midst of the years" (Ps. 119:126; Hab. 3:2).

**Comments, suggestions,
or article submissions can
be addressed to:**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner,
IMA PROCLAIM Editor**

**And emailed to:
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Or
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**The IMA PROCLAIM is in
the process of giving the op-
tion of receiving publications
either through email or as a
hard copy through U.S. mail.
Our criteria for decisions are
based off of indications made
on the 2022 Member Renewal
Forms.**

**Thank you for taking the
time to read the IMA Pro-
claim monthly newsletter.**

Relational Actional Missional

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PROCLAIM

MARCH 2022



Mindset of a Servant

By Richard L. Bolte, Evangetist

"Whoever wants to be great must become a servant." Mark 10:43 TM

God measures greatness in terms of service, not status; by how many people you serve, not by how many serve you. This is contrary to the world's idea of greatness. Jesus' disciples argued about who deserved the top spot. Not much has changed. Everybody wants to lead, but few want to serve. Even Christians want to be "servant-leaders," not just plain servants. But to be like Jesus is to be a servant, for that is what He called Himself.

Knowing your gift is important; having the heart of a servant is even more important. Without a servant's mindset you will be tempted to misuse your gift for personal gain or use it as an excuse to exempt yourself from areas you consider "beneath you."

God tests our hearts by asking us to serve in ways in which we may not feel equipped. While you may not be gifted for a particular task, you are called to do it if no one else is around.

Staying focused is important, but never have goals so lofty that they blind you to the needs of those around you. Your gift may reveal your ministry, but a servant's mindset reveals your maturity. Simply stated, the only way to serve God, is by serving those He loves!

Real servants make themselves available. They don't fill their time with other pursuits that limit their availability. They are ready to jump into service when called on. Can God mess up your plans without you becoming resentful? As a servant you don't get to pick and choose where or when you will serve.

Remind yourself at the start of each day that you are first God's servant; that way interruptions won't frustrate you be-

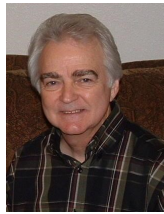
cause your agenda will be whatever God desires. "Whenever we have the opportunity, we have to do what is good... especially for the family of believers" (Gal. 6:10 GWT). Notice two things: (1) Unmet needs are just opportunities to grow in servanthood. (2) God says the needs of your spiritual family are to be given preference, not put at the bottom of your "to do" list.

Learn to be more sensitive and spontaneous; for great opportunities pass quickly. "Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now" (Prov. 3:28 TEV). John Wesley said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can." Begin looking for small tasks that nobody else wants to do. Do these little things as if they were great because God is watching.

One reason many of us never volunteer is because we think we are not good enough. Some churches foster this idea by making "excellence" an idol. They say, "If it can't be done with excellence, don't do it." Jesus never said that! Less-than-perfect service is always better than the best of intentions. Almost everything we do is done poorly at first; that is how we learn.

In heaven we are going to serve God forever. Right now, we are practicing. Like athletes, we are training for our big day. "They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes. You're after one that's gold eternally" (1 Cor. 9:25 TM). So, practice well, you are getting ready for eternal responsibilities...and rewards.





The Heavenly Mindset

By Alton Dan Smith; Faithmark Ministries & IMA Member

One of the first signs indicating spiritual growth of Christians is their mindset and the new thinking they possess. The change in their hearts is easily seen because the Holy Spirit is the operative power that has birthed this transformation, and resides to bring a perpetual difference. However, it is more challenging for us to demonstrate the continual growth of a spiritual mind because we are still the primary force controlling our will and intellect.

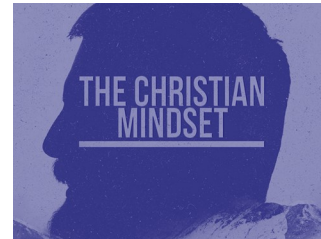
The Bible speaks to those who have received resurrection life about seeking the things above (Col. 3:1). The next verse instructs us: "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." The Greek word *PHRONEO* is used to more effectively translate affections as meaning "to think, or to set the mind on." It is in this context that the groundwork is laid for some of the most definitive expressions of the Christian life. If it is true that we are what we think, or what we set our minds on, then the mind becomes the arena for the cutting edge of our Christian growth.

It has been said that some Christians are so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good. Frankly, I've seen very few who fit into this category. However, if this statement is relevant to Christian life, it probably needs some qualification.

There does seem to be a malady among some believers who live in a separatist or sectarian fashion. Within the context of this lifestyle they can become insensitive to the society around them. Their spiritual disciplines and customs tend to disengage them from the world in which they are to be salt and light.

What might help in this matter would be a better understanding of the word "things" which Paul refers to in Colossians 3. The reference is not things as related to materialism or possessions, but to affairs and matters of business. Uniquely, as we seek

the things above, we become engaged in heaven's commerce here on earth. Our minds absorb the activity with which heaven is occupied and subsequently translates this into our thinking and character.



What goes on within the government and economy of heaven? I tend to think this sovereign domain transacts business in truth and beauty. It governs with power and purity. Love and holiness reign supreme. All of the attributes of the Lord God are revered and exalted with ecstatic praise. Joy and peace is the administrative force by which the angels execute the will of the Father. Strategies are planned with the Spirit's power to implement the resources of God into the lives of those who are citizens of heaven. The affairs of heaven are attended to, not in a board room, but in a throne room where the Almighty dispenses abundant mercy and grace to all His subjects.

If our thoughts consistently filter through the policies of heaven's praise and glory, then our minds will be guarded, and the spiritual function of maturity is enhanced. The affairs (things) of heaven will become a natural association and implementation with us. After all, aren't we really citizens of that heavenly commonwealth? (Philippians 3:30).

With this understanding, it becomes easier to control our thoughts and govern our lives unto righteousness. Our mindset of the business of heaven becomes an influence even to those alienated from God. We do not withdraw from our sinful surroundings. Rather, become a dynamic resource for the world.



Maintaining a Biblical Mindset



By Rev. Chad Hayes; National Chairman

Many years ago famed horse trainer John Lyons was asked why he would often whisper in the ear of the horses he trained. His response to this question was, "If I can get in its head I can get on it's back."

In this axiom we find a truth that I believe the enemy of our soul understands well. If he can get into our thoughts, he can control us. He works feverishly, through the systems of this world, to infiltrate our minds. He is relentless in his attempts to bring us to the point of capitulation.

As ministers we are all surely aware of the fact that the enemy is in full attack mode. There is an organized onslaught of cosmic proportions working to establish strongholds of depraved thoughts in our minds. If he can lay hold of the

minds of those who preach and teach the Word, he can mislead the masses whom they lead.

We have to recognize this battle is spiritual. We wrestle not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 4:12). Since we are fighting a spiritual battle, we must fight with spiritual weapons.

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every **thought** into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled" (II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV)

May we all recognize the attacks of the enemy; and may we use the spiritual weapons the Lord has given us to fend off these attacks.

When it comes to guarding our mindset, there is one distinct weapon we are to use: the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. If our biblical worldview is to remain in tact, it will be because we have handled the Word of God with fidelity.

Like an athlete with his craft, we must become skilled, by reason of use (Hebrews 5:14), handling the Word of God. This will keep our mindset sharp and in tune with the mind of Christ.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV).

Instruction in righteousness is essential for a proper, godly mindset. We must view the Word of God as truth. The Word of God is right. When we align our minds with the Word, it produces right thinking. Right thinking produces right living. The fruit of all of this is righteousness. We become complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The only way we can maintain a healthy mindset is through the Word of the Lord. If God's Word is supreme in our thoughts, we will truly be a people led by the Spirit of God, a people controlled by the Lord.



From the Home Office

Home Office Update:

The IMA Home Office Is Relocating!

The Home Office of the IMA has moved from Houston, TX to Louisville, KY. For the next few months we will continue the current system—in place since 2019—of forwarding mail from the Shell Lake address to the physical location of the IMA Member Services Coordinator. Be on the lookout in the coming months for a new official mailing address for the IMA!

Thank you for your patience in dealing with any temporary delays experienced as a result. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email us at ima@imainfo.org or call/text us at 812.550.1240.

Sincerely, Rev. Sean Alexander, Member Services Coordinator

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Quotable Quotes

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."
~ C.S. Lewis

"Your mind will always believe everything you tell it. Feed it HOPE. Feed it TRUTH. Feed it with LOVE." ~ Taken

"All Christians have the Spirit of Christ, but not all Christians have the minds of Christ." ~ Oswald Chambers

"You can be broken. You can get upset. But you must always remember that God never leaves you alone." ~ Taken

"The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be holy." ~ J. C. Ryle

"A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps." ~ Saint Augustine

"No man has the mind of Christ except him who makes it his business to obey him." ~ George MacDonald