

## **I Insist On It Ephesians Part 18**

*“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do in the futility of their thinking.” Ephesians 4:17*

Whether you are aware of it or not, your mind is a controlling little creature. It keeps a running account of all that has happened to you and interprets what that means, what you should do or how you should react. Your mind is constantly monitoring and interpreting your life. There is an internal monologue going on in that brain of yours right now. Your mindset frames how you feel about every issue and every person you meet. You're opinionated. But are your opinions just? Do you see clearly? Has your experience left you skewed in your assessment people?

Jesus wants to transform your thinking. He gives the Apostle Paul an idea of what He thinks about the unredeemed mind. Let me give you a few adjectives from Ephesians 4:17-19. He says your fallen mentality is futile, darkened, separated from God, hardened, insensitive, indulgent, impure and sensual with a constant lust for every kind impurity.

Ok, you and I are believers. We have lots of grace to help us learn and grow. Thank the Lord He is working in our lives and we no longer live like enemies of God in the futility of our thinking. But in your interpretation process do you find yourself exaggerating the facts in the middle of a trial and become anxious, fearful, depressed, angry or despondent? Do you interpret success in ways that make you proud, superior or self-reliant? That little brain of ours needs to be transformed so that we have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16). The attitudes that come from our philosophy of life need to be like Jesus' (Philippians 2:5).

Being a Christian is serious business. You are an ambassador of Jesus to people where you live and work. When you talk to people do they hear Jesus? Jesus said, “Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” Minds, hearts and attitudes do not change easy but please don't give up. Take an area of your life where you see your mindset ruling with futile thoughts and determine to see it changed this year. Paul used these words, “I die daily.” I thought it was because of all the sacrifice and all the persecution he went through, but I'm convinced it had a lot to do with his quest to die to self.

Take some time to read Ephesians 4:25-5:21 and see some areas of the old mindset that you can put off and some new attitudes you can put on.