Each Part Working Properly Series

AMPC Ephesians 4:16; For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part (power adapted to its need) is working properly (in all its functions,) grows to full maturity, building itself up in Love.

We are going to be taking a more in depth look at what it means to be working properly as a service member of the Body of Christ. The working properly is taken from the Greek phrase “effectual working” and it comes from the word engergeia (en-erg-‘i-ah) which means superhuman power. According to this verse of Scripture we have received this superhuman power because of or through Jesus Christ. In the book of Acts we can see when we received this superhuman power. NLT Acts 1:4-8; Once when He was eating with them, He commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends YOU the Gift He promised, as I told YOU before. John baptized with water, but just in a few days YOU will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

So, when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking Him, Lord, has the time come for You to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for YOU to know. But YOU will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon YOU. And YOU will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

As a service member of the Body of Christ we must be keenly aware that the Word of God informs us of an important spiritual Truth. We have the Mind of Christ. AMPC 1 Corinthians 2:16; But we have the Mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His Heart. What is the Mind of Christ? The Apostle Paul in this verse of Scripture gives us insight into the definition of the Mind of Christ. To hold the Thoughts of Christ. The thoughts we think collectively every moment of every day collectively form our attitude, which is our state of mind. So, what is Christ’s Attitude or State of Mind? The Apostle Paul reveals more details about the Attitude or State of Mind of Christ in his letter to the Philippians. AMPC Philippians 2:5-11; Let this same attitude and purpose and (humble) mind be in YOU which was in Christ Jesus:( let Him be your Example in humility).

Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God (possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God), did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained. But stripped Himself (of all privileges and rightful dignity), so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being. And after appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself (still further) and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!

Therefore (because He stooped so low) God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name. That in (at) the Name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth. And every tongue (frankly and openly) confesses and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Subtitle: Putting First Things First

In order for us as service members to be working properly or effectually, we must have the Mind of Christ which is superhuman power! However, we must put first things first. We must first take back control of our mind or soul. We are a spirit who possesses a soul and body. The soul is the mind, will, intellect, imagination, and emotions. These are the instructions of Paul in his letter to the Corinthian Church. This is very fitting that he would be explaining this to the church at Corinth. In Brother Rick Renner’s book “A Life Ablaze” he speaks about the corruption of the city of Corinth. “Corinth was a very wicked and flesh-dominated city. Its long history of being rebellious to authority is the reason the Romans completely destroyed it around 146 BC, leaving it uninhabitable for nearly a century.”

“In approximately 44 BC, Roman Emperor Julius Casear saw that Corinth was an ideal site for a city because of its location on an isthmus between two major ports, one on the west and one on the east. Because Corinth was highly accessible, Casear decided to rebuild and repopulate the ancient municipality once again. How a city is birthed often determines the future spiritual state of that city, and that was the case with Corinth. Julius Casear actually believed he was a direct descendant of Aphrodite the goddess of sex. In the cult of Aphrodite, intermingling with sacred prostitutes was an integral part of worship. So, when he decided to rebuild the city, he decided to dedicate it to his supposed ancestor Aphrodite.”

The rebuilt city of Corinth teemed with illicit sex, alcohol along with other mind-altering substances which was used in worship just like sex was used in worship. In short, just about every type of vice and sin you could imagine was available in Corinth. It became well known as a party town. A city where a person’s flesh could have it’s fling without restraint and where one could avail himself to the vilest human instincts with no concern of other’s disapproval.

But God! This was the state of Corinth when the Apostle Paul came there to establish the church of Corinth in the middle of the First Century. Right in the middle of this dark and pagan atmosphere, God’s power miraculously came on the scene, and this church was birthed through the efforts of Paul and his co-labors Paul and his team preached the Gospel in Corinth, and many of those listening responded. And no matter how perverse and twisted their pagan lifestyles had been in the past, those who repented and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior were instantly made new creatures in Christ.

Just like us the Blood of Jesus cleansed them; the indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit came to reside in them; and God declared them righteous. Now the real work has just begun, like us their spirits are bought back into right standing with God and He’s living in us now. However, there is now the process of salvaging the soul. Just like the Corinthians our souls have been exposed to the pagan world and now needs to be renewed to the Mind of Christ.

This is why Paul was admonishing the Corinthians and us to take control of our own souls which is our responsibility as a service member in the Body of Christ. AMPC 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; for though we walk (live) in the flesh (human), we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh (human) and using mere human weapons. (YOU need the superhuman power of God) For the weapons of our warfare are not physical (weapons of flesh and blood), but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds.

(Inasmuch as we) refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the (True) knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Mind of Christ). Being in readiness to punish every (insubordinate thought) disobedience when your own submission and obedience (as a church member) are fully secured and complete. (The Mind of Christ).

The Apostle is introducing to the church of Corinth “The Ministry of YOU. He is making sure they understand this is the work they have been called to do as a service member of the Body of Christ. It is our responsibility to manage our own thoughts with their attached emotions. This is referred to as “Mind-management.” Paul made it very clear that this is taking back control of our soul so we could have the Mind of Christ is warfare! Why? Because our mind, will, emotions, intellect, and imagination has been exposed to and have been living in a pagan world of disobedience to the Truth of God’s Word.

We have been accustomed to living the life of the flesh (human sense and reason without the Holy Spirit). And now we have to choose (activate our will) to now die to the flesh that we are so accustomed and adapted to. We can’t live in the flesh and have the Mind of Christ simultaneously. We must die to one and live for the other! Let’s take a closer look at this warfare Paul is speaking of. In the Greek the word warfare is the word strateia (strat-i-‘ah) and it means an expedition; a campaign, military service, and warfare.

This is the origin of the word strategy. The Merriam and Webster dictionary defines the word strategy as a careful plan or method. An expedition; a journey or excursion undertaken for a specific purpose. According to the AMPC Colossians 1:13; (The Father) has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His Love. So, on our behalf there has been an excursion for the specific purpose of removing us from the control and dominion of darkness to belong to Him. Jesus Christ has waged a campaign and won on our behalf, and we no longer belong to the devil. There was a careful plan and method that was made before the foundation of this earth for our completed salvation through Jesus Christ.

So, the Apostle Paul lays out the strategy or warfare for our takeback of our soul! The plan our method is Mind-management. It is to manage our own soul. AMPC Proverbs 4:23; Keep and guard your heart (mind or soul) with all vigilance (alert and watchful to avoid danger) and above all that YOU guard, for out of it flow the springs (issues; a vital or unsettled matter, a going out) of life. Whatever goes in, will come out! AMP Luke 6:45; For his mouth speaks from the overflow of his heart.

Paul lays out the plan or method in AMPC 2 Corinthians 10:4-6; He refers to our weapons of warfare which is the full armor of God that Paul lists in AMPC Ephesians 6:11-17; Put on God’s whole armor (the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies), that YOU may be able to stand up against (all) the strategies and deceits of the devil. For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood (contending only with physical opponents), but against the despotisms, against the powers, against (the master spirits who are) the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

Therefore, put on God’s complete armor, that YOU may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day (of danger), and, having done all (the crisis demands), to stand (firmly in your place). Stand therefore (hold your ground), having tightened the belt of Truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God, and having shod your feet in preparation (to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news of the Gospel of peace.

Lift up over all the (covering) shield of saving faith, upon which YOU can quench all the flaming missiles (aimed at your mind) of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.

YOU use the weapons of your warfare, and don’t allow thoughts to enter your mind that are contrary to the Word of God. YOU refute (to prove wrong by evidence of the Truth, which is the Word of God, showing to be false) arguments and reasonings and every proud or lofty thought that sets itself against the Truth! Take your own thoughts into captivity into obedience to Jesus Christ the Word of God made Flesh!

YOU have to be ready to punish every insubordinate thought that tries to enter your mind. The indwelling Holy Spirit will be constantly reminding YOU that the objective every day is to have the Mind of Christ, His Attitude or State of Mind we already previously discussed. Paul said, “Let this Mind be in YOU.” Because it’s a process YOU have to allow! We are at war and Paul has identified that we have an enemy, the devil. The fact that we have an enemy constitutes that there is a war! The mind or soul is the battleground where this war is waged.

Jesus has already given us His Superhuman Mind which causes us to be more than conquerors. AMPC Romans 8:37; Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who Loved us. Jesus Christ has already won the victory over the devil and the flesh life. However, we still must fight and regain our minds or souls and then maintain that victory by managing our own thoughts with our attached emotions. The enemy has taken us hostage through our minds because we haven’t managed our thoughts and emotions as we have been commanded to do.