

# *The Struggle Between Faith & Doubt* **Attaining the “Mind of Christ”**

## **I. Introduction**

## **II. Three Different Kinds of Convictions**

### **A. Public Convictions**

1. Matthew 2:7-8 (NLT) *<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”*

### **B. Private Convictions**

1. Mark 14:29 (NLT) *Peter said to him, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.”*

### **C. Core Convictions**

1. Core convictions are convictions that might be called the “mental map” that we have in our minds.
2. Our “mental map” is the way that we think things really are, and the way life really works.
  - a. What I say I believe. (Public Convictions)
  - b. What I think I believe. (Private Convictions)
  - c. What I show, or reveal, that I really believe by my actions. (Core Convictions)
3. “The deepest conviction of the Christian is that Christ was not wrong.” (Elton Trueblood)
4. What Jesus wants to change is our core convictions about how things really are!

## **III. How Do We Attain the “Mind of Christ”?**

### **A. We have to learn what Jesus taught about how life really works.**

1. “Have I done one single thing today simply because Jesus said to do it?” (George MacDonald)
2. The “dance” of trusting Jesus: letting go, waiting, and being caught.
3. Luke 23:46 (NLT) *Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!” And with those words he breathed his last.*
4. Genesis 17:17 (NLT) *Then Abraham bowed down to the ground, but he laughed to himself in disbelief. “How could I become a father at the age of 100?” he thought. “And how can Sarah have a baby when she is ninety years old?”*
5. Genesis 18:12-14a (NLT) *<sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed silently to herself and said, “How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so*

*old?”<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, ‘Can an old woman like me have a baby?’<sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD?”*

6. Genesis 21:6 (NLT) *And Sarah declared, “God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me.”*
7. Following Jesus is never just an intellectual decision!

#### **IV. Conclusion**