

Renewing the Mind

Concept:

One of the greatest challenges that confront believers is that at the new birth our minds do not automatically change. Our minds will not immediately start thinking God thoughts on its own. When we receive Christ, our spirit becomes a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17) but my soul and body stay the same. I have to put on the new man. I need to crucify the flesh. I need to set my mind on things above and not on the things of the earth. I need to meditate the Word of God day and night and then follow what it says. Then the Lord can release His power to change my life and then I will begin to live in a victorious manner.

A scripture that used to give me problems was Isaiah 55:8. This scripture states that God's thought and my thoughts are going in two different directions. The reason I had trouble with that is because I Corinthians 2:16 states that I have the mind of Christ. How could I have the mind of Christ and still not have the kind of thoughts that Christ had. Is this a contradiction, of course, the answer is no. Scripture is telling us that I have the potential to think like Christ but it will not take place without some work on my part. I must determine to set my mind on God's Word. I must bring every thought into captivity and measure it against the Word of God. If the thought is not feeding my spirit, then the thought must be cast down and replaced with a thought that will feed my spirit. Does this sound like a full time job? It most certainly is.

Romans 12:1,2 is the scripture that summarizes the concept we are talking about. The Word says that if my thinking doesn't change I will never experience the perfect will of God. Wow! That should stimulate us to begin to co-operate with the Spirit of God and get the transformation of my mind under way.

The process of renewing is a picture of our will and the will of the Father working together. Also, the process allows the Word and the Spirit to change us by their power. It is the Father's will that I change. I will to begin to keep my mind centered on the things of the Lord. This process then allows the power of the Word to be released and the Spirit puts the power where I need it and I am transformed. Salvation works out of the spirit man to the natural man by the work of the Holy Spirit. This work is called sanctification. People will then begin to see that I have been in the presence of Jesus and I act like I have been hanging around with Jesus and deserve to be called a Christian.

The bottom line is this; I am responsible for what I allow to stay in my mind. Are my thoughts on things that are noble, right, pure, lovely, praiseworthy, or excellent? If not, those thoughts need to switch to the Word; which are all of the things I just mentioned. Every thought must be evaluated against God's Word. My thoughts are either bringing life or death. They are either feeding my flesh or my spirit. We need to starve our flesh and feed our spirit. Romans 8 says it the best, to be carnally minded is death but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Let's choose life and peace.

Definitions:

Meditation: To ponder, imagine, mutter, ruminate, speak, and study.

Mutter: To speak words, to express thoughts

Ponder: To consider with deliberation, carefully weighing out of a situation

Ruminate: To chew cud, to chew again what has already been chewed slightly: to bring to mind and consider again what was thought about earlier.

Sanctification: To set apart, dedicate, consecrate, separate, sanctify, make holy. A manifestation of life produced by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Transformed: Change, transfigure, modify, to fashion, transfigured by a supernatural change

Renewed: The word suggests a renovation, restoration, a change of heart and life, and a complete change for the better.

How to Meditate:

1. Mutter God's Word aloud, speak under your breath
2. Ponder on it over and over
3. Imagine it taking place in your life
4. Talk to yourself
5. Worship the Lord for the Lord for the manifestation taking place in your life
6. Pray the word over yourself
7. Study what you are meditating
8. Sing the scripture
9. Realize the integrity of God's Word

Scripture Application:

1. Matthew 17:2
2. II Corinthians 3:18
3. II Corinthians 4:16
4. Colossians 3:10
5. Hebrews 6:6
6. Ephesians 4:23
7. Titus 3:5

8. Romans 12:1,2
9. Genesis 24:63
10. Deuteronomy 5:29
11. II Chronicles 11:16,17
12. Joshua 1:8
13. Psalms 1:2
14. Psalms 19:14
15. Psalms 63:6
16. Psalms 77:12-15
17. Psalms 119:15
18. Psalms 119:23
19. Psalms 119:32
20. Psalms 119:148
21. Psalms 143:5,6
22. Isaiah 26:3,4
23. Isaiah 33:6
24. Jeremiah 9:23,24
25. Daniel 2:22,29
26. Matthew 22:37
27. Luke 8:15
28. I Timothy 4:15
29. Ezekiel 38:10
30. Mark 14:72

31. Luke 8:35
32. Luke 12:29,30
33. Acts 17:11
34. Romans 1:28
35. Romans 8:5-7
36. Romans 8:27
37. I Corinthians 2:16
38. I Corinthians 7:31
39. Philippians 2:5
40. Philippians 4:2
41. II Timothy 1:7
42. II Timothy 2:4
43. Hebrews 8:10
44. I Peter 4:1
45. I John 2:15
46. Proverbs 23:7
47. Genesis 8:21
48. I Samuel 2:1
49. Nehemiah 2:12
50. Nehemiah 9:7,8
51. Psalms 16:9
52. Psalms 51:10
53. Psalms 57:7

- 54. Ecclesiastes 1:13
- 55. Ecclesiastes 1:17
- 56. Jeremiah 17:10
- 57. Jeremiah 23:24
- 58. I Chronicles 28:9
- 59. I Samuel 9:19
- 60. I Samuel 16:7
- 61. Job 7:17,18
- 62. Ezekiel 36:26,27

Summary:

Our Christian walk is about learning to co-operate with the Spirit of God. God does not control us, but He, by His Spirit wants to help us. He went to the cross but I must accept the finished work of the cross. He provided sanctification for me but I must learn how to apply it to my life. Philippians 2:12 tells me to work out my salvation with fear and trembling. This verse is not talking about going to heaven but it does mean I must work as a team for my soul to receive the deliverance and transformation that the Lord has provided for me. That is why learning to renew my mind is so important. Meditating the Word allows the Word to become revelation knowledge. Revelation knowledge will bring an explosion to my soul and my attitudes and action will change. We start to change as we align ourselves with what the Spirit is doing in our lives. Allow the power of the Word to quicken and make alive your flesh. Others will see Christ in us as we focus on the perfect law of liberty and are changed by the Holy Spirit. It is the will of God for you to be sanctified by His Word and His Spirit.

Action:

Write on a card, a scripture that addresses what the Holy Spirit is showing you needs to change. Begin to meditate the scripture and ask the Lord to bring revelation to you. Read the scripture over and over again. You will see your attitude and behavior will begin to change and God will show you how to gain a complete victory.