



TODD LEVIN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A monthly teaching publication to our partners and friends

RENEWING OUR MINDS

Dear Partners and Friends,

If there were one area that Christian's struggle with the most, I would have to say it's in the soul. The soul of man is comprised of the mind, the will and the emotions. This is the thinking part of man. The mind is not only the gateway to the heart but also the battleground of the enemy. Victory and defeat happen first in the soul before ever seen in the natural or physical realm. I'm sure the Apostle Paul knew this when writing to the Christian's in Rome. Let's look together in Romans chapter 12:

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Romans 12:2 (KJV)

Here's a more modern day translation of the same verse taken from the Message translation.

“Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”

Romans 12:2 (Message)

There are a number of things in this passage that is certainly worth taking a closer look at. Notice the bible tells us, “not to be conformed to this world – or so well adjusted to your culture – that you fit into it without even thinking.”

Conformity to the world

With every generation that passes, the moral decline and changes that have taken place in our culture is mind-boggling. And the sad thing is that many Christian's have jumped right on board conforming to the ways, system and thinking of the world without even giving it a second thought. Is this the direction the church should be going in, I ask myself? Ignoring our conscience and simply “going with the flow?” Remember the majority of the “flow” is going to hell at this point. Have we let down our guard by allowing the culture around us to drag us down

to its level of thinking, worldliness and godlessness? It does appear that way if we stop long enough to take a good hard look.

We as believers need to “come up higher” and become the standard, role model and example to the world. We should be presenting to them through our conduct what is acceptable or not to God. This mindset of “how close can I be, think and act like the world and still make it into Heaven” is unacceptable. Our thinking must be changed to conform to God’s ways, God’s thoughts and God’s will.

Instead of, “What do I want?” We must ask ourselves, “What does the Lord want?” No more, “What do I think is best for me?” But what does God think is best for me.”

We should be fixing our attention on the Lord and His thoughts toward us instead of fixing our attention on others and their estimation of our values.

Renewing of our mind

Let’s look at this particular area: the renewing of the mind. This simply means to reprogram your thinking. Instead of “conforming to the world’s way of thinking,” you now begin to think like your Heavenly Father does. You see, your mind is like a computer and gathers information through 5 channels. What you can see, taste, touch, smell and hear is processed through the thinking part of you, which is the mind. Then in turn stored into your memory or database.

Your mind doesn’t know any different except what you program it to think. Like the saying goes, “garbage in, garbage out.” This is the reason when we become born-again and come over into the family of God, that we need to renew our minds; reprogram our thinking. Or I could say it this way, “to remove the old version and update the mind with the latest and current version, i.e. the Word of God. Our minds were not “born-again.” It was our spirits that were recreated not our minds. That’s why our minds must be renewed with the Word of God.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

Notice once again what the Holy Ghost said through the Apostle Paul in verse 2:

“But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

When our minds are renewed with the Word of God, we become changed from the inside out. The will of God becomes clear to us and now we know what we must do. Change and adjustments that are made from within become a pleasure and joy from knowing that God is bringing the best out of us by conforming us more into His image and likeness.

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

James 1:21 (KJV)

“In a humble (gentle, modest) spirit receive and welcome the Word which implanted and rooted (in your hearts) contains the power to save your souls.”

James 1:21 (AMP)

Our salvation is 3-fold: past, present and future. What I mean by this is that our spirit has been saved/changed at the new birth; our soul (which includes the thinking part of man – the mind) is being saved/changed and our bodies will be changed when the trumpet of God is sounded.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

1 Corinthians 15:52 (NKJV)

Man’s spirit was saved at the new birth – God did something about that part of man because we were incapable of saving ourselves. However what’s concerning the soulish realm, the thinking part of man, it’s still the same after you prayed the “sinners prayer.” It now needs to be changed, renewed, saved, cleansed by the Word of God. This is something that we have to do and God does not do for us. You have to do something about it. The “saving of the soul,” as James calls it in verse 21, is a continual process and must be maintained in order to walk in victory.

If the Word of God divides the soul and spirit then they cannot be one in the same.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.”

Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

I stated earlier on that your mind is not only the gateway to the heart but also the battleground of the enemy. Victory and defeat happen first in the soul before ever seen in the natural or physical realm.

When we fail to renew our minds consistently with the Word of God, we often forget “who we are in Christ,” “what we can do in Christ” and what we have in Christ.” This becomes a very dangerous situation for you and a field day for Satan, the enemy of our souls.

As long as we forget, don’t act upon or are simply ignorant regarding the promises of God and our legal standing in Christ, we will never reach our full potential in Christ and experience God’s best. Is this the price you are willing to pay? Do you want to be short-changed due to ignorance, forgetfulness or laziness? Of course not, who does? Then there really is only one alternative...GET INTO THE WORD AND ALLOW THE WORD TO GET INTO YOU!

When this happens, transformation takes place. You begin to **think** different. You begin to **act** different. You begin to **talk** different. No more, “Well I can’t do this, I can’t do that.” Or the old lie of the enemy, “You’ll never amount to anything. You’re a born loser.”

Your entire countenance and outlook in life begins to change. Blinders begin to fall off; lies from the enemy begin to melt away as the truth of God's Word begins to shine down upon you cleansing your mind from all of the "viruses" and corrupted files that the enemy has sown or downloaded into your mind/system through the years.

You begin to realize for the first time in your life that you are loved; you have been accepted into the family of God. He does have a plan for your life. You were not an accident but created for purpose. There is something He wants you to do. You were created for success not failure. You don't have to be poor anymore. Sickness and disease are no longer acceptable in your life or household. You have a reason for living. You will keep the faith, fight the good fight and run your race with joy.

God's Word – Our Firewall of protection

As long as you continue to feed upon the Word of God, i.e. keeping your system updated, the enemy of our soul will not be able to send any type of virus into our system, corrupt our files or "hack into our database." God's Word becomes our "firewall of protection," watching over our heart and mind against any attacks from the enemy. Any virus – such as wrong thinking, doubt, unbelief or wonder will not be able to get into your system – the mind – because your mind has been renewed and is up to date with the latest virus protection – the Word of God.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (KJV)

You will find as you continue to grow in the knowledge of the Lord through His Word that you will quickly recognize, identify and destroy thoughts and imaginations that the enemy so discreetly tries to bring.

You will find your prayer life becoming more effective even bringing quickly results now that it is fueled with and based upon the Word of God. Prayer will become a pleasure as opposed to a struggle. You now know what God will do even before you open your mouth because you've read His promise and He always keeps His Word!

Your Friends and Partners,

Todd & Eva