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Renewing The Mind
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What is involved in renewing our minds? We have learned about the words that we speak and the thoughts that we have, but how do we renew our minds? What we think on will determine what we believe and what we believe will determine what we talk and what we talk will determine what we act on.

Luke chapter 8 tells us to take heed how we hear and Mark chapter 4 tells us to take heed what we hear. Jesus teaches that it is important what we hear and how we hear. Hearing ears are important to us regarding the word of God. We will hear and take heed to the words of God that we hear. All the different denominations that are in the world today were taught during times of revival, but what was heard and how the words were received makes the difference in what is taught in different denominations today, some have received the truth and others have not.

Rom 8:6-7 "For to be *carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." KJV

* carnal mind means to walking after our senses, to be sense ruled, opposite of following after the spirit of God and a renewed mind

A renewed mind is in agreement with God and has life and peace, however an unrenewed mind is in opposition against God and has no life or peace. The unrenewed mind is a selfish mind and is subject to our flesh, flesh ruled with no obedience to God. By renewing our minds to the word of God it will bring about right choices, every choice that we make not in alignment with God tends to bring unrest and unruliness in our lives and if not corrected will tend to rebellion. That is the reason that it is so important to bring our minds into subjection to the will of God.

Eph 4:23 "And be *renewed in the spirit of your mind;" KJV

* renewed mind means to reinvigorate or reform, new, youthful or something that is fresh, young again

Eph 4:23 "Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes." NLT

Eph 4:23 "But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you." MESSAGE

What is involved in the renewing of the spirit of our mind? We are made up of a spirit, soul and body, when we became born again our spirits were made a new creation, we now have a responsibility to do something with our minds. A new concept or change needs to take place in our minds after we are born again, to really allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives. Our mind is our will, it is our thought process, our feeling and understanding. Renewing our minds must be worked from the inside out and comes from a change on the inside, that has to be worked out. It is an ongoing process to renew our minds, not something that can be done in a short period of time, but will grow progressively with time.

Col 3:10 "And have put on the new man, which is *renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:" KJV

Col 3:10 "And have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed *and* remolded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it."

AMP

This scripture shows how and what we need to do regarding our minds, God is not going to do anything with our minds, He is not going to do anything with our thoughts, because He gave us the power of choosing or choices, making right or wrong decisions is ours. Paul is teaching that the responsibility that we have is with our bodies, making them as a sacrifice unto God being a reasonable service, not only with our bodies but with our minds. This spirit man on the inside of us, must be allowed to become a powerful tool in the kingdom of God, this is done by the renewing of our minds.

Rom 12:1-2 "I *beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 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." KJV

*beseech means to call aside or make an appeal to certain facts, carries more authority than just to ask someone, get a little bossy, get forceful

*transformed means inward to outward, it is a process of time, will take will power to carry out, no past excuses, God isn't doing anything, we do it with our mind, it is our choice,

unrenewed mind means thinking without God

* conformed means not thinking like the world does

Rom 12:2 "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." MESSAGE

It is possible for believers minds to be formed and think like this world, it is their choice. Change only comes for a believer by the renewing of their mind. If we aren't renewing our minds we will become just like everyone else around us, doing and talking like others. When we become born again, we begin to have a desire to want to make a change in our lives, we may not completely understand what it is but as we begin to renew our minds, it becomes evident.

Col 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" KJV

Jesus tells us that we were in the kingdom of darkness before we become born again and we usually bring a lot of bad experiences from the past. If we are trying to renew our minds and trying to do the word of God and are still using excuses as to what has happened, we are not truly renewing our minds, the choice is ours. We cannot blame others for our lives. The renewing of the mind is like a butterfly that is coming out of its shell, it changes from the inside out and begins to take on another appearance, it becomes beautiful. Without a solid renewing of the mind, we will never be made whole, we will always have an excuse and the root is selfishness.

James 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with *meekness the *engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." KJV

Laying aside things that not of God, making the engrafted word a part of us it will save us.

* meekness means it is not being weak, is strong, coachable, controllable and teachable, strength in control

* engrafted means learning to graft one thing to another, ex: plants being grated together, let the word of God become a part of us

The following scriptures are an example of Paul on his way to Rome, during the trip a large storm arose and because of the intensity of the storm, all hope had been lost for those on board. The storms of life can sometimes appear to us to be the same, there can be no change, no hope, so we just accept what is happening and that we have no way of getting out of the situation. Having no hope will cause us to accept all the negative things that we are hearing. This was Paul's situation, all hope had been taken away,

however, Paul had not allowed what was being told him to effect what he was believing God for that he would go to Rome, this was not his destiny to die at sea what there. His mind had been renewed by what the angel of God had told him, they would reach their destination. His attitude was positive, that is the kind of attitude that we should be having, not allowing others to influence our minds, but holding on to what the word says to us about our situation, this can only be done by the renewing of our minds.

Acts 27:20-25 "And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. 21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. 22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. 25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." KJV

There can be a challenge in situations where there seems to be no hope, but continuing to believe God by what He has told us will enable us to have victory. Making the choice to believe God can only be done if we have a renewed mind. Many churches have formed their doctrines based on circumstances totally apart from what Gods word says, their doctrine may be in print but outwardly they don't believe anymore the word or demonstrations of the spirit of God. They have stopped renewing their minds. What good does it do if we have heard from God and continue to be upset? Faith has a rest there is change coming.

We see in the book of Daniel, examples of the frame of mind that Daniel and the three Hebrew children had. They knew their God and they knew what the outcome would be in their lives, they had made a declaration standing on Gods promises to them. Their minds had been renewed by that promise and they knew God would deliver them. Their choice was to serve God and do things Gods way, their attitudes were correct.

Daniel 3:10-11,15-17 "Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image: 11 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king." KJV

v. 17 declaration made, standing with Gods promises regardless of circumstances

Daniel 1:8-10 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. 10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king." KJV

Paul went through lots of persecution but he realized that he was more than a conqueror through Christ, he was fully convinced because he knew that nothing could separate him or us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. But in order for us to know this, we must have a renewed mind, there is always deliverance in Jesus when our minds have been renewed, everything will turn out alright, regardless of the circumstances and situations that we encounter.

Rom 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." KJV