

AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Mind Renewal - Part 2
How to Renew Your Mind

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“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, *which is* your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].” Romans 12:1-2. Amp

Our minds need renewal because they are fallen. They have a spirit, (attitude) or a mindset that is hostile to the absolute supremacy of God. Rom.8:7. And yet, the aim of all life is worship according to verse 1. We are to use our bodies – our whole lives – to display the worth of God and all that He is for us in Christ. Now it makes perfect sense when verse 2 says that, in order for that to happen, our minds must be renewed. Why? Because our minds are not by nature God-worshipping minds. They are by nature self-worshipping minds. That is the spirit or attitude of our minds (Eph.4:23).

How Do We Renew Our Minds?

A. Don't Be Conformed - Verse 2; Colossians 1:9-10

To copy; to act like the heathen. To copy the fleeting fashions of the present time. To go back to our former way of life - Eph.2:1-2, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.” NIV

Exactly which world are we not to copy or emulate?

“Do not love the world [of sin that opposes God and His precepts], nor the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust *and* sensual craving of the flesh and the lust *and* longing of the eyes and the boastful pride of life [pretentious confidence in one's resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father, but are from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and with it its lusts [the shameful pursuits and ungodly longings]; but the one who does the will of God *and* carries out His purposes lives forever.” 1John 2:15-17 Amp.

Cast down every thought - 2 Corinth 10:4-5; Colossians 2:16-19. They are life-ruining, worship-destroying desires.

What thoughts often occupy your mind contrary to God's word? What triggers them?
What beliefs or customs do you still hold on to that are not in line with God's word?

The first step to mind renewal is to examine your mindsets or attitudes, accept that they are wrong if they are contrary to the Bible rather than trying to explain them away. Get rid of stinking thinking

Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." NIV

B. Renew Your Mind - Verse 2

Renew your mind with God's word - Luke 11:24-26; Psalm 51:10-12; Eph.4:16-17;23-24

Prayer, prophecy, laying of hands or impartation do not directly transform our minds, only knowing God's word and personal application does. 2 Peter 1:3-4, "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." NIV

Getting rid of thoughts that are not glorifying God is just one side of the coin; the scriptures must completely replace old thoughts, beliefs and every carnal behaviour. We learn a lot from academic and other human knowledge but only God's word gives life; only God's word can transform - Eph.5:26-28; John 15:3; 17:17.

C. Engage with the Holy Spirit - Titus 3:5-6, "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior" NIV.

Just like our new birth, mind renewal can not be achieved merely by checking a list of dos and don'ts. The Holy Spirit helps us in two ways to renew our minds:

1. From outside - He works from the outside in by exposing the mind to Christ-exalting truth. That is, he must lead us to hear the gospel, to read the Bible, to study Christ-exalting writings of great, spiritual men, and to meditate on the perfections of Christ. John 8:32
2. From inside - The Holy Spirit works from the inside out, breaking the hard heart that blinds and corrupts the mind so that the truth would not be despised and rejected.

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Corinth 3:18 NIV.

SEE YOU AT THE RETREAT!