

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Mind Renewal - Part 1
The Necessity of Mind Renewal**

July 20, 2022

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"Most of God's children don't know God" - Pastor Jide on Sunday.

This is because though believers have been born again in their spirits many still live with their old minds. Our spirits are completely transformed at the confession of "Jesus is Lord" but our minds (emotions, wills and intellects) need renovation and realignment with our newborn spirits and the will of God. The way we think and act are not automatically changed the day we give our lives to Christ or because a certain number of years have passed since we became Christians. Whatever God did for us in Christ and the new way of life He expects from us will make little or no sense to believers until we replace our old ways of thinking and doing things with the new lifestyle shown in God's word. The new life Jesus purchased for us will have very little or no benefit for us until we are *"...made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."* Eph.4:23-24.

Working definition: "Mind renewal is renovating the mind of a Christian. It is the removal of information, patterns, mindsets, attitudes, and limitations that would not be found in the Mind of Christ" - Curry Blake.

The State of the Natural Mind

Matthew 16:22-23. In this passage, the Lord compared Peter's natural mind to Satan's. No matter how long you've been following Jesus like Peter, your mind continues to function in line with this world where Satan has access until you intentionally align it with God's word.

Romans 12:2: *"And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be [c]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]."* Amp.

Genesis 3:6-7. Eve who was created sinless became careless with her mind. She placed God's word aside and tried to get what she already had and then lost everything. Similarly, believers make it their goal to make alternative sacrifices - diligent church attendance, passionate prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and all the good things we do for God's kingdom - only to circumvent the real sacrifice God requires from us: our carnal bodies and minds. Romans 12:1-2. It simply means we should stop identifying with sinners - we are to be set apart. John 17:17. We have a different reality from the people of the world. Eph. 4:16-17. Prov.23:7.

E.g. Being sick is not normal for a child of God. Isaiah 53:1&5 Amp.; Matthew 8:17. But many Christians put up with all kinds of diseases while confessing "I am healed" because what we believe in our hearts is disconnected by the graphic pictures of sicknesses and diseases

painted in our minds by our experiences and the world around us. It is more of a mind renewal problem than faithlessness. Prov.23:7; Matt.8:8-9. Accepting and flooding our imagination with pictures that we are already healed in our bodies is more effective but harder to do than praying and fasting to be healed. Believers are as free as freedom can be but religion prevents them from enjoying their freedom - Galatians 5:1 Amp.

Why must we renew our minds?

1. The world has a set of values that are different from Christ's values. Believers cannot live by both. Rom.8:5-6; Col.2:8-9

2. Only minds (thought patterns, mindsets, beliefs) that have been changed by God's word can understand and please God. 1 Corinth 2:14. Romans 12:1

Ephesians 4:22-24, *"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."*
NIV

Question: Mention some specific areas of life believers must not conform to this world.

Another name for the natural mind is the carnal mind. Roman 8:7; Jude 1:19. A carnal mind is one that is guided or "led" by feelings, circumstances, or the world's way of doing things. A person can go to church, read scripture, memorize and even quote scripture, and yet still be carnally minded. They usually use words like "wisdom" to explain their actions, and, "fanatical" to explain the actions of someone more committed to the Christian lifestyle than they are. The wisdom they rely upon is actually defined in James 3:15-17.

At first glance, it seems like Christ has invited Christians into a boring lifestyle full of dos and don'ts and away from all the juicy razzmatazz of our high tech world. The truth is that the renewal of our minds helps us to discover a more glorious, delicious, and better satisfying lifestyle that's in line with God's perfect will.