



Renewing Your Mind

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

God wants to conform us to the image of Christ who relied on the Father for everything. The world, separated from God's life, can only depend on their best efforts to live morally. All that the world does is self-reliant, independent, and of the flesh.

- "Do not be conformed to the world" means do not live as if you were separated from the life of Christ, left to try self-improvement programs that rely on your strength, wisdom, planning, abilities, nor think like the world that says "whatever."
- Renewing your mind is NOT vain repetition of mind over matter, emptying your mind, self-hypnosis, or the acquiring of Biblical information.
- Renewing your mind is confessing the truth, believing that God will transform us.
- Believers are spiritually born again. Your mind was not born again. Any lies that you believe must be exchanged for the truth through the work of the Spirit as you renew your mind.
- Through renewing your minds, you "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" who transforms you so that you may "prove," or live, "the good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
- Proverbs 23:7 "As a man thinks within himself, so he is (lives)."

1. Lay Aside Your Former Manner of Thinking

- Eph 4:17, 22-24 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ... that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self (futile thinking), which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
- Col 3:9-11 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.
- 2 Pet 1:12-13 I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder.
- John 8:31 "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

2. Take Every Thought Captive to the Obedience of Christ

In Isaiah 55:8 God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts," and that is the problem. As the Holy Spirit exposes thoughts that are not in line with God's thoughts (revealed truth about our identity and victory in Christ), we are, by faith, to take those thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ.

- Recognize, refuse to entertain, replace with the truth, repeat
- 2 Cor 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations, and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

3. Confession

Confession means to “say the same thing.” It means to agree that what God says in His Word about Himself and yourself is true. Confession is an act of faith and obedience resulting in transformation.

- Rom 10:9 if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
- 2 Cor 4:13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed, therefore I spoke,” we also believe. Therefore we also speak.
- Heb 10:23 Hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering.

4. Meditation

You are already an expert at meditating. You do it all the time! The question is what are you meditating on? Meditation is renewing your mind over and over. A great visual of meditation is of a cow chewing on its cud. It chews, swallows, regurgitates it, and chews on it some more, over and over, until it has fully digested it. Malcolm Smith defines godly meditation on the word of God as rolling the word and truth over and over in your mind until you see it from God's perspective.

Rolling your problems and circumstances over and over in your mind, trying to solve, fix, or control them is godless meditation. It is setting your mind on the flesh which results in death (Rom 8:5-6).

- Psa 1:1-3 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

5. Communion

Jesus told us to take communion in remembrance of the new covenant based on His blood and body (Luke 22:14-20). He did not say to examine ourselves for sin. Communion is a confession of faith remembering and proclaiming His victory over sin and death for us.

- Blood: Christ paid your debt in full!
- Body: You have been joined to Christ Jesus in death, burial, and resurrection!
- I, the old man, died with Christ and it is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me.
- Christ died to sin once for all; you are dead to sin and alive to God!
- 1 Cor 11:23-26 the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's [and our own] death until He comes.

6. Baptism

Baptism is an outward (public) act of faith that proclaims the inward exchange of our unregenerate spirit for the indwelling Spirit of Christ as our life. It is a picture of our co-death, co-burial, and co-resurrection with Christ. Through the act of baptism by faith, we are presenting ourselves to God (Rom 12:1) and invite the Holy Spirit to free us from our old patterns of self-reliance and independence.

- Rom 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ have been baptized into His death?
- Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.