



THE POWER OF A TRANSFORMED MIND





Welcome to

THE POWER OF A TRANSFORMED MIND

Course Overview: This course is a study of what God's Word teaches us about our mind and how we might renew it. We will discover together:

- The importance put upon the renewing of the mind in the Scriptures
- How the mind works
- How our thinking limits us both in our relationship with God, others and God working through us
- How our self – image / identity affects all areas of our lives
- How to view difficulties and adversity when it comes
- The practical steps in the renewing of the mind that we might engage in and see our lives transformed

Course Goals: By the end of this course, we would like you to:

- Be totally committed to God in this process of the renewing of your thinking
- Understand how the mind works and what you have to do to work with God in the renewing process
- Discover different areas of our thought life that must be addressed and changed
- Discover and use different biblical tools God has given to us for the renewing of our thinking
- Have a written plan of what you will do in the days to come to renew your thinking

Follow-up Study: To obtain full credit and benefit from this course, we ask you to:

- a. Completely study through the course manual paying close attention to the sections NOT covered in the teaching sessions.
- b. Read the follow-up reading on the Prepare International Website – www.prepareinternational.org. There will be several articles posted under this course heading to study. You should go to the website, find the PI-articles section and then click on your nation's flag to access the articles.
- c. Write a Five page essay, typed answering the following questions:
 - Describe the three greatest things you learned in the course in detail.
 - What are the biggest areas of negative thinking you must deal with?
 - How has your self image limited your working with God and others?
 - Describe three things you will do to begin the renewal of the mind process.
 - In your ministry, how will you teach others how to renew their minds and live without man imposed limitations?
 - **On the last page of your paper:** What was the most important thing you learned from the reading assignment from the Website?

Sources:

1. *The Fourth Dimension, Volume One & Two*, Dr. David Yonggi Cho, Bridge-Logos Publishers, Gainesville, Florida.
2. *Investment in Excellence*, Lou Tice, The Pacific Institute, Seattle, Washington.
3. *The Adversity Quotient*, Paul G. Stoltz, PhD, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York.
4. *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*, Bill Johnson,
5. *The Bible*, The Holy Spirit!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE CALLING & THE PROMISE OF A TRANSFORMED MIND.....	4
PROBLEMS WITH OUR THINKING.....	7
HOW THE MIND WORKS.....	10
THE PROCESS OF RENEWING THE MIND.....	16
PRINCIPLE: WHERE DO OUR BELIEFS COME FROM.....	19
PRINCIPLE: CREATING AN INNER CONFLICT WITH GOD’S TRUTH.....	20
Renewal Lesson 1.....	21
Renewal Lesson 2.....	25
PRINCIPLE: Eastern & Western Thinking.....	28
Renewal Lesson 3.....	29
Renewal Lesson 4.....	31
PRINCIPLE: Lock On & Block Out – Traditional Thinking.....	37
Renewal Lesson 5.....	38
PRINCIPLE: Comfort Zones.....	41
Renewal Lesson 6.....	44
PRINCIPLE: The Science of Change.....	47
Renewal Lesson 7.....	49



THE CALLING AND THE PROMISE OF RENEWAL

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

Know: a. The student will come to understand how important the renewal of the mind is to their progress and fruitfulness in life.

Be: a. The student will be moved deep within to do whatever necessary to be renewed in their thinking with the Lord.

The mind is one of the most powerful things God has ever created. With it we either work together with God or oppose Him. The mind is one of the primary ways God interacts, communicates to us and work with us, in fact, the New Testament speaks about the mind at least 55 times and refers to it many more times.

“When you receive Jesus Christ. . .your spirit is instantly reborn. Right away God’s life is poured into you, and instantly your spiritual being receives eternal life. But your mind, your thoughts, must be renewed according to your born again spirit; that task of renewal is one that requires a lifelong process, taking time, energy, and struggle.”

This renewal is critical if you are going to:

- Experience a close relationship with God
- Work well together with Him
- Take the limitations off of yourself
- Reach your full God given potential

Why Renew our Minds

Although the mind is one of our most powerful tools, it also is one of our biggest areas of problems. God communicates most often through our thought life and if our thoughts have not been renewed to His, He cannot communicate to us and we cannot work together with Him.

God’s Thoughts are much higher than ours

Isa 55:8 –Isa 55:9 *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

The Scripture teaches us that God’s thoughts are as different and completely other than our thoughts than the heavens are high above the earth! Because of this, we find ourselves working against the very One who loves us and has come to live within us. It looks like this:

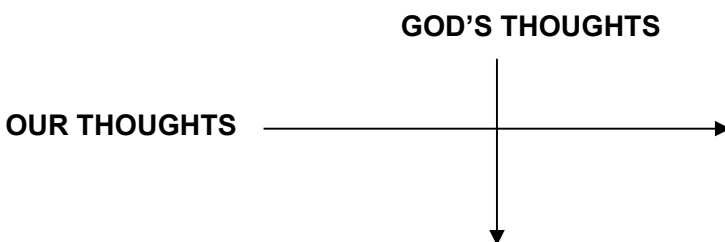




ILLUSTRATION: OIL MIXING WITH WATER

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE: PETER'S THINKING (MATT 16.21-23)

Because we do not align our thinking together with His through the renewing of the mind, God, who lives in us, cannot freely speak to us or move through the channel of our thought life.

Jesus is called the Word and the Word is thought either clothed in speech or print!

"God's thoughts come through His Word, or through the Holy Spirit. His thoughts touch our thoughts, and it is there that you meet with God. So if you do not renew your thinking life and if you do not renew your mind after conversion, then God cannot really manifest Himself to you."

The Promise of a Renewed Mind

Rom 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Paul, after teaching his clearest teaching on the salvation of God in Christ comes to this conclusion as he shifts his epistle to the Romans to how we then should live. This is his first statement, which is a warning and a glorious promise from the Lord.

The Warning: *If you do not renew your mind, you will live exactly like the rest of the world. The world will squeeze you into its mold! Why? Because God meets us very much in our thoughts and without a renewed mind, He cannot produce in us this glorious salvation and life of Christ.*

The Promise: *If we go through this renewal of the mind process, we will NOT be conformed to the world and our lives will be absolutely transformed into something totally different. Why? Because God can live and work freely in us. The Greek word for 'transformed' Paul uses here is **metamorphoÿ** from which the word 'metamorphosis' comes. This does NOT mean to be made a better you, but rather it means to be made a completely different, other, a wholly different form or person!*

The Greek word used here- **metamorphoy** – is the same word used when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain before the eyes of Peter, James and John. What happened on that mountain? Jesus was transformed before their eyes so that the glory and reality of heaven shone clearly through Jesus in that moment. This is what it is to have a transformed or renewed mind. It is not just about thinking differently, it is that heaven's own thoughts are flowing through us. We are thinking from heaven's view with heaven's thought patterns and heaven's perspective.

Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand. . .

The first recorded words of Jesus were that we must totally change our thinking for the Kingdom of Heaven has come! ***Mk 1:14 –Mk 1:15 . . . Jesus came to Galilee,***



preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

It’s amazing that as Jesus began His work, the first thing out of His mouth was

- The time has been fulfilled
- The Kingdom of Heaven is here
- Your only response is
- **Change your way of thinking so that you can believe and enter!!!**

The word repent is *metanoeo* which means to change your mind, to change your way of thinking! When you break down the word, it has two parts

- RE = to go back *PENT = the very top – the highest

It literally means to change your thinking to thinking from the highest, to think like God. To take out your mind and put in heaven’s mind and see everything through the thought processes of God.

The Mind of Christ

The Apostle Paul ends the second chapter of 1 Corinthians with an amazing statement, “But we have the ***mind of Christ.***” Many take this as an inevitable fact, but they are mistaken. Paul is NOT saying that every Christian definitely has the mind of Christ. How do we know this? Look around! Therefore, he must be telling us that all of have the potential to access His mind and live in His thinking. What a promise for us to claim as we go further in learning about the renewing of our mind.



Discussion: **In a Group of 3** - Discuss together what you feel about your own thinking at this point in your life. Discuss someone you have met or know who has undergone this renewal process. How is their life different?



Problems in Our Thinking

Objectives:

Know: *We will discover several problems in our thought lives that hinder us.*

We will come to understand what a renewed mind would look like and how it would free us to achieve all God would have for us.

Be: *We will feel a deepening desire to engage the Lord in the renewal process to see our thinking completely change.*

As we begin this study, we must first look at a few problems we have in our way of thinking. As we have stated earlier, the first and greatest problem is that God's way of thinking is so different than ours, that to walk with Him and work with Him, we must be transformed in our thinking. But let's look at a few other problems:

Problem #2 Our way of thinking is futile

Eph 4:17 *"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind."*

The Scripture also describes that if we do not renew our minds, we will walk just like the rest of the world in a futile way of thinking. Futile means a way of thinking that leads to nothing or gets you nowhere. This second problem with our thinking is how it severely limits us in all that we can accomplish in life. It limits . . .

- The quality and the scope of our relationships
- The things we will dream and plan
- The things we will attempt to accomplish
- ***Both the quantity and the quality of the life we live!***

If you continue to think as you always have thought, you will continue to get what you have always got.

PROBLEM #3 We come to Christ under the lies of the Devil

A third problem in our thinking is that when we come to Christ, we come with a mindset that has been filled with the Devil's lies and our minds have little room for Christ's word.

In **John 8.31- end of chapter**, we find a very interesting conversation with Jesus and some people who have believed. In it we discover these truths. . .

- Jesus preaches and they believe in Him
- He tells them that His truth will set them free from sin through His word
- They begin to argue with Jesus
- He tells them, *"My word has NO PLACE within you."*
- The Problem: Their minds are already filled with the lies of the devil before they came to Jesus
- These are people who are religious, claim to have God as their Father, have heard Jesus' words and believed



When we come to Jesus, we must understand that the Devil and his demons have been trying to influence us continually, and probably a great deal of our thinking is filled with lies. Some of these lies seem quite harmless and others are clearly destructive. But the bottom line is that as long as we continue to believe these lies, that they are truth, HIS WORD has no place in us. Our minds will not be renewed.

Problem #4 Our Thinking Creates Scotomas in Our Lives

Scotoma is the Greek word for blind spot or blindness. It is a term used today to describe a very unique activity of our mind.

Every day we encounter 1000s of different bits of information around us - 1000s of sounds, 1000s of visual bits of truth, 1000s media expressions vying for our attention. Our mind blocks most of these out in order to help us focus. This lack of seeing or hearing or receiving the information around us is called scotoma. God created this ability to block out unnecessary information within us to allow us to focus and to keep us from going crazy. If we processed everything that came to us, we would literally lose our sanity.

Examples:

- Buying a computer
- Buying a car

The problem of scotoma works both on the natural and spiritual level. Jesus spoke of this problem in Matt 13.13-14.



Bible Study: Read Matt 13.13-14 and describe how Jesus is speaking about this problem of spiritual blindness – scotoma.

But here is the problem, scotomas were created by God to help us but they can also create major limitations in us if we don't understand how to go beyond them.

Where do scotomas come from? From what we think and believe. Our inner beliefs cause our minds and our spirit man to open up to see or completely shut out the things that are around us.

The problem is: **We have scotomas in every area of life based upon our inner beliefs!** It is very possible that God has placed around us all sorts of blessings, resources, and good but we never see it or notice it. We are living far below what God has allotted us because we just can't see it. Our life is limited by scotomas!

The Power of a Renewed Mind

So what is a renewed mind?

A RENEWED MIND IS . . . a mind that has come under the influence of the Word of God and Holy Spirit in such a way that it thinks like God and can work freely with Him.



It is NOT just thinking about more spiritual things or memorizing more spiritual information, it is having the very operating system of the thought life cleaned out and a whole new operating system installed that can work with Him.

Eph 4:23 “**and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,**” - it is NOT just more spiritual information, it is the very spirit or attitudes of our minds.

Illustration: *If someone has a Mac Computer running on the Mac OSX operating system it is a very powerful machine. But if they try to run all of the wonderful Microsoft Windows programs on it, they just won't work. Windows based programs will simply NOT work with Mac based machines. The Problem = the operating system is very different. The operating system is not what the machine thinks ABOUT, it is what the machine thinks WITH!*

We think a renewed mind is **what we think about**. This is NOT the first thing. A renewed mind is a mind that has had a deep transformation of **how it thinks** and **what it thinks with!** It is like having the entire operating system of your thinking rewired to think and work with God.

A RENEWED MIND. . .

- **Thinks like God thinks**
 - God always thinks in terms of love – He is totally uncontaminated by self and selfish thinking
 - God always thinks in terms of hope and faith – He is always positive
 - God think in terms of possibility
 - God thinks in terms of abundance & victory
 - God always is thinking very creatively
- **Thinks with very little limitations** – A renewed mind enables a man to live life with virtually no limitations. The only limitation is what God would will for your life. Even this is so far above what we could dream for our own lives.
- **Thinks in two worlds at one time** – Principle: The Other Reality – to really think like God, we must discover the other reality. Most believers only live in the natural reality, but there is a realm of the spirit world all around us alive with power, resources and possibilities. When a man renews his mind, he lives and thinks out of the Other Reality and brings that reality to bear upon the natural world around him. (Examples: Joshua 6, 2 Kings 6.17, Eph. 1.3)



Reflection: Take a few minutes to do an inventory of your thinking:

How do you see these problems working in your life today?

How does your thinking limit your life? Be as specific as you can.

How does your thinking limit you in other areas of life?



What would it be like to have thinking that absolutely released you with virtually no limitations upon you?

Have you discovered living and thinking in the two different realities?

HOW THE MIND WORKS

Objectives:

Know: *The student will understand the difference in the conscious and the subconscious levels of thought.*

The student will see that at the subconscious level, there lies a set of realities, beliefs, and truths that guide the course of their life.

The student will discover that changing the beliefs at the heart level is the real secret of the renewing of the mind.

Do: *The student will be able to begin to differentiate some of their beliefs on the purely conscious level and the subconscious level.*

Not Just the Brain

When we speak of the mind, we are speaking of much more than just the brain. We are talking about the entire thinking, emoting, and decision-making faculties God has given to us.

Definition – In this study, we will refer to the mind as *the totality of man's thinking, creating, emoting, and decision-making abilities that lie within.*

The Bible speaks of man as a tri-partite being made in the image of God. (**1Th 5:23** *"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body. . ."*)

It says that we are made up of body, soul and spirit. It also speaks of man thinking with his mind and his heart (the deepest part of our being). (See Deut. 4.9; Deut. 15.9; Deut. 28.28; Prov 23.7) It then goes on to say that we have a human spirit that interacts with God's spirit.

These teachings from the Bible make it clear that thought is NOT just a function of the conscious mind, it is carried on by the entire soul and even the spirit of a man!

The Power of Our Beliefs - the 'Truth'

The key to our understanding how the mind works and our renewing the mind lies primarily in our deep inner beliefs which we will call the **TRUTH!** The truth is the key to the mind. Unfortunately, we are not speaking only about God's truth – which is the only real truth, but rather our beliefs which is **the 'truth' as we see it**. It is truth to us, but in actuality, **it is often lies**. All of us have a set of beliefs that have been carved out over the years that we treat as being the truth, to being what is real, although much of it is lies. The problem is, to us, it is true, it is real - the truth about God, the truth about the Bible, the truth about the world, and the truth about



ourselves. No matter what information goes into us, our beliefs, the truth **as WE see it**, rules our lives.

Jesus made a powerful statement to a group of Jews who had just chosen to follow Him, when he said, **“If you continue in MY word then you will be My disciples, and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.”** Jesus was setting a mighty law in His Kingdom. He was saying. . .

- You have lived your life with truths that must be removed and put away
- You must replace the truth as you see with MY truth
- When you truly discover MY truth, that truth will set you free
- You discover MY truth in MY word

The problem is, that many people read the words of the Bible, study its pages in depth, and even memorize large portions and yet the TRUTH within their hearts and minds are never over-ridden with His truth.

Just like His truth will set you free, other truth will bring you into bondage! The problem is, we all have a set of deep inner beliefs we think are true and those beliefs become the operating systems of our lives.

Examples of the power of truth at work

Story: In the late 1940s and early 1950s, a young man from Oxford University began to have a dream – to run 1600M under 4.00 minutes. It had been attempted for many years and had been the great barrier that no man had been able to break. The man’s name was Roger Banister, and no matter what others told him, he simply would NOT believe their words for he had become convinced of another reality – that barrier could be easily broken! On 6 May, 1954, Banister broke the barrier running 1600 M under 4.00 minutes. That same year, many other men ran a sub 4.00 minute race. In one race later that year, over five men broke the record at one time. What had happened? The truth had been changed! One man changed the ‘truth’ for the world and then many others were able to do it. The barrier did NOT exist in their bodies. The barrier was in the ‘truth’ as the world knew it. One man changed the truth, and the truth set the world free!

The problem is that much of our ‘truth’ is not truth at all. It is lies that we have received deep within as truth and this truth has not set us free, rather it has brought great bondage and many limitations in our lives. Herein lies the first great principle of the renewing of the mind:

Principle: We behave and act in accordance with the truth as we believe it (whether it is true or not)

Story: Cliff Young – the year was 1983 and the race was considered the most grueling race on earth, the 875 km (543 miles) Sydney to Melbourne ultra marathon. The entries consisted of 150 world-class athletes who had trained for many years when up walks a 61-year-old sheep and potato farmer whose only trainer was his 81-year-old mother! They thought it must be some form of a publicity stunt when he entered in overall and galoshes, but he was dead serious.



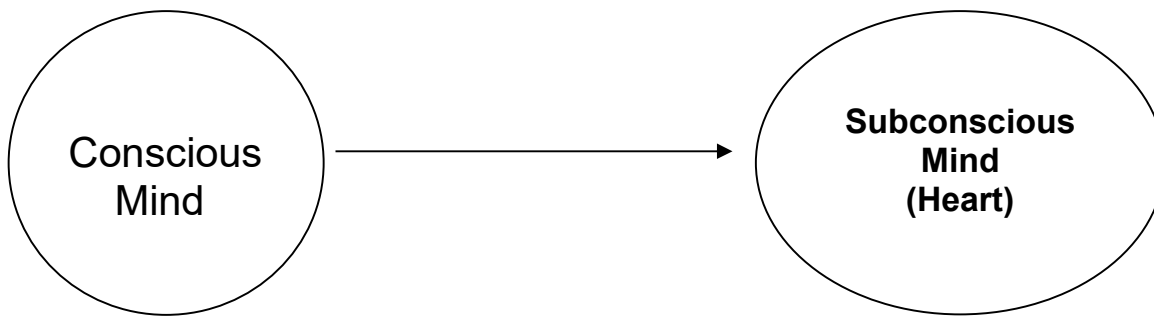
Cliff had farmed sheep all of his life on a 2,000 acre farm and at times had to run for two to three days solid when storms would blow in to care for the sheep.

When the race began, the world was embarrassed at the old shuffling man who could not even run properly. He didn't even know the race strategy. All of the professionals knew that the race would take over five days and that to survive, you had to run 18 hours a day and sleep 6. No one told Cliff.

At the end of the first day, Cliff was many kilometers behind but kept on running through the night. He kept on running through the second day and night, the third and on. By the last night, Cliff passed the other professional sleeping runners and by the end of day 5, Cliff Young had done the impossible – He had won the longest race on earth. He not only won the race, he broke the world record by 9 hours!!!

Why did Cliff beat these world class athletes? The truth had set him free! Looking at the matter deeper, the 'truth' as the famous athletes knew it had created a major limitation within them that Cliff did not have. Cliff simply believed he could and should keep on running!ⁱⁱⁱ

Two Types of Thinking



Functions – of the Mind:

Receives & processes information

1. Perception via senses
2. Association
3. Evaluation
4. Decision Making

Functions of the Subconscious:

Stores information – not how things are, but our version of 'the truth'

1. Reality / Truth—"the way things are", Belief system
2. Attitudes.
3. Automatic habits.
4. The Core Needs of Man

Explanation

The Conscious Mind is the doorway to the inner man. With it, we allow in and make decisions about what is truth and what is not. With it, we feed 'truth' to the heart and the spirit either releasing the inner man to work together with God or to operate entirely in its own soul strength. With the conscious mind we . . .

- Take in all the information and stimuli that comes from the five senses



- Association = have I seen this before? Where does this fit in what I know and believe? You begin to process.
- Evaluation = judging probabilities of what will probably happen in this situation
- Decision making = most of us make decisions based upon the past instead of the potential of what could be in the future.
- Everything is filtered through our subconscious and our emotional/intellectual history.

The Subconscious Mind is the very heart of man. It is the deep inward thought that is the real me. The subconscious or the heart is the place where all life flows. We can control our actions and our words for a brief period of time through our conscious decisions, but eventually we always let go and go back to the flow out of the heart and the true you flows forth.

Within the subconscious lies. . .

- **The Truth** as we see it. It is an inner picture of things like
 - What is normal? The way things 'really' are. What I can 'really' expect from God. What life really holds for me?
 - Not how it really is but our idea—our version of the truth "my reality".
 - We have been creating within us "the truth", "the way things are". "This is the way I am" "this is what I expect", "this is what I can do", "This is what the world or God gives to me".
 - I know the Bible promises this, but the reality is. . .
 - ***The key to renewing the mind is to completely altar this inner picture of what is true, what is real, and what is normal in life!***
- **Attitudes** are a second function or part of the heart. Attitudes live in the heart, not the conscious mind. You can control your attitude by will power for a few minutes, but as soon as you let go, the real attitude of the heart comes forth.
 - Attitude is an emotional history attached to what we believe and this will cause us to act or to not act
 - A positive attitude will cause a forward thrust in our life, a push forward because of the emotional power released
 - A negative attitude causes a drawing back, a seeking to avoid, a way to get out of the situation.
 - Attitudes are acquired and can be changed
 - Most are accidental not intentional.
- **The Foundational Needs of People** also are to be found and fulfilled on the heart level. Within the subconscious mind are four core needs that all people strive to see met.
 - *Intimacy*
 - *Security*
 - *Belonging*
 - *Significance*
- **Habit of action and thought** are the last part of the heart or subconscious mind. Our subconscious regulates automatic habits.



- Habits start on the conscious level—repetition brings them to the subconscious. For example: tying shoes, driving car.
- Once habits become subconscious, we don't try to bring it to the conscious
- We want to live n the flow of the subconscious, but we must change the flow!
- Habits are critical, but most people want to live in flow and don't want to exert the energy and work to change the flow! We must change patterns.



The Key of the Heart

When you study what the Scripture says about our mind, you come to this very powerful conclusion – the key is the heart, the subconscious region of our minds. In this area lies the ‘truth’ whether it is God’s truth or our own that we have developed over the years – which is really lies. This truth rules our lives!

Solomon many years ago made a very powerful statement when he said, **“As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.”** (Prov 23.7) If the scientist would simply read and believe the word of God, they would have discovered these truths many years ago. Solomon was saying that Man IS what he thinks in his heart, at the deeper level below the conscious mind.

Jesus went on to confirm this as He spoke of the heart in many ways. When He and many other Bible writers were speaking of the heart, they were NOT speaking of the physical organ that pumps blood. Rather they were speaking of that inner core of man where the emotions, will, and deepest thoughts lie. Remember that scientist call this the subconscious mind. Jesus and others said things like. . .

- All life flows out of the heart
- All of our words flow out of the heart
- All of our actions flow out of the heart
- Man believes with the heart, not the brain
- He often rebuked His disciples for their hardness of heart and their inability to believe because of their heart condition

Hardness of Heart

Both Jesus and Paul teach us that we are restrained by the thoughts and beliefs NOT of our minds, but of our hearts. Jesus rebuked His followers for their slowness to believe due to the hardness of their hearts. In Mark 8.17-19, Jesus speaks of His own followers being with Him, seeing His miracles, and yet nothing is changing in their lives. They don’t yet understand His ways or what He is doing. He says to them that they can’t see or understand because of the hardness of their heart. This phrase literally speaks of a thick covering of skin over something, which makes it totally insensitive. It implies the loss of spiritual feeling and understanding! This covering over the heart was the ‘truth’ as they had developed. It was all of the inner beliefs and understandings they had developed over the years that acted as a major blockage to real spiritual truth and Jesus Himself.

Double-Mindedness

In James 1.6-8, James speaks of a common problem within people – they are double-minded. They think two different things within themselves. The Greek word literally means to have two souls. As you study the passage and understand what God is saying, it becomes clear that you have two competing beliefs working within. This describes a person that believes one thing in the conscious mind and another in their heart. The end result James tells us is **doubt – distazo (gr)** – which means to waver between two opinions or two beliefs and that man will receive nothing from the Lord.



It is critical we renew our minds in such a way that we believe one and only one thing – the truth of Jesus Christ! God desires our lives to be set free by His truth, but His truth must go beyond the conscious mind level into the hearts to have its full impact for David wrote:

Ps 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

David knew a wonderful secret: God's truth had to go beyond the mental level into the inward parts, the hidden parts which really make up a man or woman. Once truth got to the heart level, its full power would come through.

It is critical that we discover God's principles to renew our minds to the deepest levels so that we can walk in the fullness of God.



Bible Study: Take some time and meditate on these verses about the heart – Matt 5.8; Matt 12.34-35; Matt 15.8; Matt 22.37; Mark 6.52; Mark 7.19-23; Mark 16.14; Luke 8.15; Luke 9.47; Luke 12.45; Luke 24.25; 1 Cor 2.9; 2 Cor 3.15; Eph 4.17-18; Heb 3.12



Application: Think about your life and answer the following questions:

- 1. How large a difference is there between beliefs that fills your head and the 'truth' that exists in your heart?*
 - 2. What 'truth - beliefs' do you see in yourself that causes the condition of a hardened heart?*
 - 3. List three truths you see that you believe in your conscious mind, but you realize are not what you believe on the heart level?*
 - 4. Based upon what you just learned, what do you feel about your life?*
 - 5. What is one thing you will change based upon this lesson?*
-



THE PROCESS OF RENEWING THE MIND

LESSON OBJECTIVES

KNOW: Discover that this is a process that will take our entire lives.
Discover God's tools He has given us to work with us in the process of renewing our minds.
Understand that this is a major area of spiritual warfare.

BE: Become totally committed to the process whatever it takes.

The remainder of this course is focused upon what we can do working together with God to renew our minds. Now the question comes: **Where do I begin? How do I do it? What is God's part and what is mine?**

It's a Process

You must know that this is a process. It is a process that will take your entire life. You cannot get discouraged along the way. There will be seasons when you see Father keeping His promises to you about your life and other times when it seems you are losing the battle of the mind. The big KEY: start now and never look back.

Renewing the Mind is Spiritual Warfare

In 2 Cor 10.3-5, Paul tells us we are in a spiritual war and that God has given us mighty weapons to win this war. As this passage progresses, we realize that the major arena Paul is speaking about in this passage is our thinking. We must win the battle of the mind. He uses phrases like. . .

- God has given us powerful supernatural weapons
- These are to pull down strongholds
- The goal of this war is to bring every thought into obedience to Christ – the goal is the renewing of the MIND!!!

In the process of renewing the mind, we must **PULL DOWN** strongholds of wrong thinking and **ERECT OR BUILD UP** entirely new thinking patterns like His. There are two kinds of strongholds Paul mentions. . .

- Logismos (Gr) = logical thought, reasoning, thinking patterns. We get our word logic from this Greek word.
- Hupsoma (Gr) = high thing, lofty thing; this often refers to actual demonic powers in NT scriptures

The first area of warfare is logical human thought. We must break these old ways of human thinking and begin to think like God.

The Goal: Bringing every thought into the obedience of Christ. This is the goal of the renewal of the mind, but what does this mean? The word obedience used here is the Greek word *hupokoe* which literally means to hear with a heart attitude of obedience. Wow! What a picture for our goal in the renewing of the mind.

We will so renew our thinking that we will constantly hear and interact with the Lord with a joyful heart to fully obey!



Four Parts to the Following Lessons

This course now becomes practical and interactive at this point. Each lesson will have a series of three things in it from this point on. . .

A. One part of each lesson will be an area of thinking we need to bring His truth into and begin to think like Him. It will be marked by the Icon to the right. When you see this icon, you know that this is speaking of an area of your thinking that must be renewed to walk with and work with God.



B. The second part of each lesson is a tool, a biblical tool and a proven tool that you can use in the renewal process. Tools are only valuable if they are used. Each tool taught is NOT just for the area of thinking it is taught with, but can be used in all of our renewal areas.

C. The third part of each lesson is a 10 – 15 minute activity to begin to practice or use the tool that has been taught. It is essential that we begin to use what we are learning immediately

D. A fourth part of the following lessons will be key principles we will learn to help us further understand how our thinking works and what we must do to renew it. Those lessons will be marked with the keys you see to the right.



God's Tools: the Word and the Holy Spirit

As we begin to look at the tools we have to renew the mind, we must begin with God's tools – what He has given us to help in this process. It is wonderful to know that we are NOT on our own in this journey. God Himself has come to help us and join us in the work.

The Word of God

One of the most important tools you have in the renewing of the mind is the Word of God, the Scriptures. Through the Scriptures, we can learn to think like God. Within those pages, His ways, His thoughts and His mind is revealed, but the Scriptures alone are not enough. We must have God the Holy Spirit Himself become our teacher if the Word is going to do its work within us.

Ps 94:11 –Ps 94:12 “The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile. Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your law.”

Jn 8:31 –Jn 8:32 “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Jesus teaches us a powerful principle here about His truth: *His truth will set us free, but we find it by continuing in His Word.*



The Work of the Holy Spirit

Reading the Bible is not enough though, we must have a relationship with the Holy Spirit and allow Him to become our teacher, for the Word says, **2Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

That last phrase says, that God has given us the Spirit of a sound mind. The phrase 'sound mind' literally means **a mind that we have taken control over** or a **saved mind**. Through the working and power of the Holy Spirit we can take control of our thinking and bring it into alignment with God's. The Holy Spirit is waiting for us to learn to work together with Him in this.

Rom 8:5 –Rom 8:6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

This Roman's passage teach us another important principle about the renewing of the mind: *if we continue to think in our natural, fleshly way, we will experience nothing but death, but if we learn to work together with the Spirit and set our minds on the things of the Spirit, we will experience life and peace.*

Time in God's presence

We must learn to quiet our hearts before Him and spend time in His presence. We must slow down and take this very seriously and set our hearts before Him day after day and watch Him do His work in us. Most of us never paid attention to the initial development of our thinking, and it was severely flawed and damaged. We cannot afford to do this again. We must take charge over our inner man by coming into God's presence time after time and depending on His Word and Spirit to renew our thoughts. God WILL do His part if we do ours.

Our Primary Task – The Work of Faith

As we begin to learn these different areas we need to renew our minds in and the practical tools God has given us to do the work, we come to this question: What is my job? What am I to do?

Very simple: Get in the place of faith and stay there. When you see the lie you have believed, repent, "That's not true. That's not who God is. That's not who I am!" and then declare the truth boldly believing in your heart! This is the central issue of the renewing of the mind – learning to live in faith.



PRINCIPLE: Where Do Our Beliefs – the ‘Truth’ - Come From?



As we grow up over the years, we are bombarded with much information - information about ourselves, about God, about life, about money, and many other things. The information comes from many sources:

- Our family *Friends *School and Education
- Work *Media *Experiences
- Entertainment *God and the church

Different information sources are given different amounts of weight in our minds and hearts. As we process this information, we begin to decide what is TRUE, what is real, what is best, etc.

Examples:

A young child is told by her parents that she will never be able to do anything great. She is just not smart enough. Her parents hold a great deal of influence in her young heart and she accepts this evaluation as true and truth begins to form inside of her.

A person prays for the sick and nothing happens. They pray several times and nothing seems to occur. Although in his mind he says that God heals, truth begins to form in the inner person which says, “Maybe God heals, but not through me. Not here in our nation. Maybe somewhere else.”

A child at school is corrected by a teacher over and over without any praise or positive comments. Over time, the child begins to believe that they are no good and cannot do anything right. Truth is being formed.

You begin to give your tithes believing God to care for your finances and things don’t turn out in the first few months like you expect. You begin to conclude deep within that God will not really keep His word to you. You really can’t trust Him in this area.

You determine the ‘Truth’ within you

Although the information comes from many sources, YOU and only YOU form what the inner picture is of what is true about all of these key areas of life. Most of us never paid any attention as we made these inner decisions but we made them. At some time, we said within ourselves, “*this is true, this is true, this is not true.*”

We must learn to discover what the ‘truth’ really is within us and begin to repent of the lies we have accepted and take in the truth of Jesus! We must become much more selective about accepting things and rejecting things as they come our way.



PRINCIPLE: Creating an Inner Conflict with Truth

The principle of Cognitive dissonance says that a person cannot hold two conflicting beliefs at the same time. As we seek to see our beliefs and thoughts transformed we must allow the Lord to continually throw our thinking into a state of conflict and then live in that conflict until the change has taken place!

For example, in the area of healing. To accept the biblical truth that ***it is always God's will to heal*** will throw your beliefs into a state of disorder or conflict. The problem is we don't really believe this biblical truth. We have had many experiences that tell us otherwise and therefore have created all kinds of unbiblical theological arguments to solve the conflict within ourselves.

The key is to NOT try to come up with arguments to solve the conflict, but to rather allow ourselves to remain between the two truths until the Holy Spirit has sufficiently dealt with the old belief (a lie) and replaced it with a new belief (God's truth).

We must through the Word of God throw our inner beliefs out of order with His truth and then hold on to the truth until we are transformed by it. For months and even possibly years, there may be a major gap between what you are seeking to deeply believe and what your experience says and this will cause major problems within you! Do not panic and do not make up arguments to explain away God's truth because of your contrary experience. Remain in the truth.

The Holy Spirit will begin to transform you into the very thing you are fixed upon. This is called the **Principle of Beholding** – *What I fix my faith and gaze upon is what I become.*





RENEWAL LESSON #1

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

KNOW: Understand the effect our attitude has on all of our thinking.
Discover the different areas of negative thinking.

BE: Become totally committed to declaring war on all negative attitudes.
Be totally cleansed from a pervasive negative attitude in the weeks and months ahead.

DO: Learn how to use repentance in ridding yourself from wrong thinking patterns.



AREA: A CHANGED ATTITUDE

As we begin the journey of renewing our minds, we must begin with our attitude. We must declare war on all negative attitudes in our lives. A negative attitude is the beginning place of all hindering thought and emotion. It creates an inner atmosphere in the mind and heart that works against God, against faith, and against each

one of us.

Attitude is the atmosphere of the heart and mind of man. It is like a filter that everything flows from God to us and everything flows out of us to God and the world. If it is negative, we see God and His word from a negative viewpoint.

The world has become increasingly negative and many if not most of us have accepted the mindset of the world – a negative mindset. God is light and in Him there is NO darkness (1 John 1.5). Negative thinking comes from darkness and creates nothing but darkness within us. God is the most positive person in the universe and His word is unbelievably positive toward us and all of His creation. Many read the Bible and seem to find all negative and bondage there. They are reading through a negative attitude.

Areas of Negative Thinking

Fatalism – the feeling that nothing will really change. Don't dream big because things never change very much. Fatalism creates an underlying feeling that no matter what I do, it really doesn't matter that much, things are the way they are.

Pessimism – the general attitude that thinks things will always turn out bad. The general disposition to look on the dark side and to expect the worst.

Skepticism – the attitude when you hear good things or big dreams to doubt, to find flaws or to completely discount what is being said.

Inferiority – the feeling that you are less, lower or worse than others. It is a picture within ourselves about ourselves that we really can't do much or anything great.

Victim Mentality – The thought that others are to blame, the system is to blame and I am out of control of my life or situation.



Criticism– Looking at the world and others around me always finding fault and wrong in what they are doing or planning.

FEAR – One of the greatest negative forces creating a negative attitude within us is fear. Fear cripples, paralyzes and pollutes everything in the human mentality. We must understand:

- Fear comes from the devil – lies of the devil (2 Tim 1.7)
- It is one of his chief tools
- It controls many if not most believers
- Fear of failure, fear of looking foolish, fear of lack, fear of new things, fear of man

All of these attitudes that live within many of us have created a general negative outlook on ourselves, God, people and the world around us. It has become a filter of darkness that all the Truth of Jesus Christ must pass through into our inner man! Until we begin to make war of these negative attitudes and renew our minds and hearts to a generally positive outlook, we will never take the limits off our life and live far below the will of God for our lives.

Eph 4:23 “*be renewed in the spirit (attitude) of your mind*” Paul tells us that the very attitude of our minds must be renewed. We must do away with the old attitude and put on a completely new one! God is the positive light of the world. He is. . .

Hope – the positive attitude of God

Why and how should we be so positive? HOPE. God is the God of Hope (Rom 15.13). What is hope? It is the positive expectation that God is good, in control, and bringing His good will into my life. It is the expectation that good is in my path. It is the passion for the potential we have in Him.

In the New Testament, the bible speaks of hope at least 75 times directly. It speaks of the hope of. . .

- Eternal life
- The Lamb's ultimate victory
- Provision, healing, deliverance
- The presence of God
- His victory in our emotions

There is hope for every area of life in the gospel! This hope the bible says is to be the anchor of our soul (Heb 6.19), that is, it is to create an amazingly positive atmosphere within our hearts that all thinking flows through.

Negative Voices

Besides dealing with negative attitudes within us, we must silence the negative voices around us. Many people say they mean good for us are constantly telling us what can't be done, how bad things are, how nothing good is going to happen. We share a dream from the heart of God with them or a miracle we are seeking from the Lord and they pour cold water on our faith through their negativity.

Jesus had a clear way of dealing with the negative voices – get rid of them! When He was going in to raise a little girl from the dead, there were people mourning and



wailing everywhere. When He spoke faith about the little girl's life, they mocked Him. Jesus' reaction, "*Get them out of the room!*"



Bible Study: The Story of the 12 Spies sent to spy out the land of Canaan

Read Numbers 13.26-14.5

What affect did the negative voices have on the faith of the people?

How do the negative voices affect our lives today?

What has happened in your life through listening to the negative voices?

We must declare war on the negative and put in the positive Word of the Lord.

God is the most positive voice in the universe. The Word of God teaches us that

He is GOOD and desires good for us.



TOOL: Repentance

We must uncover and cast out the old way of thinking. This is called repentance as we spoke earlier. To repent is to see that your thoughts and therefore your life is going in the wrong direction and **you choose** to change your thinking to bring your life into line with God and His ways!

You must declare war on all negative thought and totally renew your mind with God's positive pure thoughts. Do not allow anything of the past to stay!

Repentance is. . . ***saying NO to the old way of thinking, turning completely from it and saying YES to GOD'S way of thinking and living in it.***

When God sent the Children of Israel into the Promised Land, He told them to get rid of every living person. When they asked Him why, the answer was that if you they left them there, they would become a snare to the Children of Israel. They were to totally drive them out or destroy them. Leaven NOT ONE behind! That is how our thinking is. We cannot afford to leave the old in there and expect to be renewed in the spirit of our minds. Repentance is the great cleansing of the mind so that God can do His mighty work within us.

You may even have to limit time you spend with some people for a time. You might have put a silence to the negative voices and those who mean well, but they continually fill you with doubt, unbelief, hopelessness, etc. Instead, find those filled with God's thoughts, God's faith, and God's Spirit and allow their truth to fill your heart and mind.



Application:

- 1. LOOK BACK OVER THE LIST OF NEGATIVE THINKING. LIST ALL THE AREAS THAT ARE ACTIVELY INFLUENCING YOU TO THE RIGHT OF THIS APPLICATION. LIST OTHER AREAS OF NEGATIVE THINKING NOT LISTED ABOVE.**
 - 2. CONFESS THEM AS SIN AGAINST GOD. NOW REPENT, TURN FROM THEM AND EMBRACE GOD'S TRUTH. DECLARE, "NO MORE. BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I WILL NOT BE A NEGATIVE PERSON ANY MORE."**
 - 3. PRAY THAT THE SPIRIT OF NEGATIVITY BE BROKEN OVER YOUR LIFE.**
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RENEWAL LESSON #2



AREA: HOW WE SEE GOD

The most central and vital area of renewing our thought life is how we see God; what we know of Him personally and deeply. Most Christians have a very wrong and distorted view of God and this lies as some of the great lies people have accepted as the truth that rules their minds. What we really believe about Him, deep down in our hearts is the very core of ALL truth.



Bible Study: Matthew 25.14-30

1. How is the view of the Master different in these servants' eyes?
2. How did their view affect the way they lived and related to the Master?

Jesus in Matt 16 asked His followers two key questions:

- *Who do other people say that I am?*
- *Who do YOU say that I am?*

Who do YOU say that I am? is the ultimate question of truth, for many have all of their truth about God from others, from the world, from faulty preaching in the church and it has created a whole body of lies that is at the foundation of their soul.

Here are some important questions about the very nature of God. . .

- **THE QUESTION OF GOODNESS:** *Is He good or is He difficult?*
- **THE QUESTION OF GENEROSITY:** *Does He have an open hand or closed?*
- **THE QUESTION OF HIS RELATIONSHIP:** *Is He Father or Master?*
- **THE QUESTION OF POWER:** *Is His arm short or long? Just how powerful is He?*
- **THE QUESTION OF HIS NEARNESS:** *Is He near or is He far away?*

The lives of the great men and women of the Bible were built upon the foundational revelation of who God is! We must know Him for He is the Truth!

How does this affect our lives? It completely determines which of two viewpoints we approach the Lord and our own lives with: ***Faith & Grace or Religion & Works.***

Faith & Grace or Religion & Works

Depending upon how you see the Father in these five areas above, will determine how you try to relate to Him and others. To see God as a Master whom you must always strive to please and live up to Him, you will tend toward a religious



approach and a works mentality. This mentality always approaches God through commands – doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong.

When you see the Father clearly, understand how generous He is and begin to see how near He is and how powerful He is, you begin to see the grace that has been offered you in Christ and you reach into the Lord lovingly by faith to walk with Him and receive His many promises. This is the life of faith.

Our View of Him also Affects Our View of Ourselves

If God is. . .

- A difficult, demanding Master first and foremost, then I am but a slave at best
- A closed fist Father, that is not generous with His children or servants, then I am a beggar in the high court of heaven
- If God is limited to do great things through me, that is, His arm is short, then I can never do great things for Him.



TOOL: Revelation

In order to know God or have any real spiritual transformation in our thinking, we must depend on the tool of revelation. Man cannot know God through his own carnal attempts and to think that we can is deception. God must reveal Himself to our hearts and minds by the Spirit and the Word, but we can take heart, He is passionate to show us who He is and what He is like.

What is Revelation? *Revelation is God opening of the eyes of the heart to His truth by the Holy Spirit.*



Bible Study: Study the following Scriptures and describe what you learn about revelation.

Jeremiah 33.3; Jeremiah 29.11-13; Luke 24.45; John 14.16-17, 26; John 16.12-15; 1 Cor. 2.9-16; Eph. 1.16-20; Eph 3.15-21

Here's what we learn about revelation:

- God wants to reveal Himself to us
- We must have a hungry heart to seek after Him
- God has given His word and the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth to reveal the word to us
- The Holy Spirit is sent to reveal all that God has prepared for us
- We can have the mind of Christ
- The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Revelation and Knowledge of Him



Application:

What have you believed about God that is a lie, but you know it is deep in your heart?

What is different about what you believe about God in your conscious mind and in your heart?

List three things about God Himself that you would like to seek revelation on?



Eastern or Western Thinking



LESSON OBJECTIVES

KNOW: Understand the worldview the Bible was written in and how it is so different from ours.

Another consideration that must be taken in when we speak of the renewing of the mind is our basic approach to thought. In the world today there are roughly two basic orientations of thinking that can be called the *Eastern Mindset & the Western Mindset*. These two ways of thinking are very different and we should understand them to understand our journey into thinking like Jesus. They are like two sets of glasses we might view God, life, ourselves and the world through and depending on which set of glasses you use, will determine how you see things.

Jesus grew up and lived in an Eastern culture and the Bible is written from a more Eastern way of thinking. It is critical for us to then explore these two approaches to seeing the world and begin a journey to thinking more like Him.

Eastern and Western Thinking Compared

Eastern Thought

1. Thinks Concretely
**God is... **Personal & experienced
2. Understanding is an experience
3. Thinks in pictures & experiences
4. Spiritual Worldview
5. Community first
6. Elevates experience & the Spirit
7. You must make a moral decision

Western Thought

1. Thinks Abstractly
**God is... **Abstract & distant
2. Understanding is comprehension
3. Thinks in definitions & explanations
4. Natural Worldview
5. Self first
6. Elevates reasoning & Mental development
7. You simply need to know and understand

Our Thinking & God's Word

The problem occurs in this fact – the Bible comes at life from the worldview of the Eastern Mentality. It is a book of pictures, stories, with very little systematic theology. While the Western world is systematically tearing apart God's word and creating systems of theology, the Eastern world is simply believing it, entering into the promises and shaking nations. We must learn to think differently!

God made us who we are and placed us in the world we each live in. There are great strengths to the Western Way, and God deeply is using the church of the West to bless the world. The conscious mind can very well operate on the Western level, but the heart, the subconscious, was made to think eastern. It thinks in



NEW WINE The Power of a Transformed Mind

experiences, pictures, and emotions. We must learn to think this way to go to the deeper places with God.



RENEWAL LESSON #3



AREA: THINK IN TERMS OF LOVE

God is love and to think with and like God we must learn to think in terms of love. When you come to know God, you know love for He is Love. He cannot help but think thoughts of love for He is!!

The Apostle Paul in Philippians 2, attacks this very issue of learning to think in terms of love. See (Phil 2.3-5) He tells us to no longer think about ourselves, but to learn to think for the good, blessing, and benefit of others. He says things like. .

- Do **nothing** from selfish thought
- Have humility of mind by considering the good of others more important than your own good
- Do not look out for your own things only, but live for the good of others

At the end of this little encouragement to think and live in love, Paul says, **“Have this mind in you that was in Christ Jesus.”** Have Jesus’ way of thinking in you – He always thought in love!



Bible Study: 1 John 4.7-19

1. God is love
2. We should love one another
3. If we do not love, we do not know God
4. Mature love drives out all fear - negative thinking and motivations
5. We love because He has first loved us

The opposite of love is NOT hate, it is self. Man very naturally thinks of and puts himself above others. This kind of thinking must come down. We think that we will be better off or happier if we think of our selves or serve ourselves, but this is a lie.

The most miserable people in the world are the self thinkers – those who most think of themselves are the worst off.

Jesus said that to follow Him, we must . . . *deny ourselves *lose ourselves

Love is the self-giving, self-sacrificing nature of God and we must repent of the self oriented thought life and allow the Holy Spirit to renew us with God’s thoughts of love. There are many promises in the Bible about this: Romans 5.5, Gal 5.22-23

But a wonderful chapter to memorize and meditate upon is 1 Cor 13, for it describes the life and thoughts of love.



TOOL: The Power of Association

One of the tools in the Kingdom of God is associations –who you spend time with. This sounds very simple, but we must spend time with people who are very different than us, further along than us, think further out in God or purer in God than us to renew our minds.

Proverbs 13.20 ***He who walks with the wise, will himself be wise***

As we are with these people, we don't so much as learn from them, but their lives and their thinking act as a cleansing agent on our old thinking and a imparting agent in our new thought life we are developing.

When we constantly choose to spend time with negative people, doubters and unbelieving Christians, and those who think like the world, we will pick up their thought patterns. As we choose the opposite, we will get the very opposite – positive, love filled, faith filled minds that believe that through God, if He wills it, we can do anything. *"All things are possible to Him who believes."*



Application:

- 1. Whom do you choose to associate with who you know if feeding you with negative, doubt and selfish thinking? What can you do to remedy this?**
 - 2. Who can you begin to spend time with on purpose to draw from their flow of healthy, life-giving, love-giving thinking?**
 - 3. Can you really just avoid all negative thinkers?**
-



RENEWAL LESSON #4



AREA: LEARN TO THINK IN MIRACLES

Miracles are normal in the Christian life. Just read the Bible. The problem is that we have grown up abnormal. We must become supernatural thinkers removing all of the impossibilities from our thinking. The problem is that we believe with our minds that God can do anything, but deep in our subconscious, our hearts, we really don't believe in the supernatural. We often find ourselves skeptical and unbelieving.

If we are going to work together with God, we **MUST** learn to think in terms of miracles. Miracles are normal to God. The supernatural is normal to Him. A non-supernatural life is what is odd or out of place in the Kingdom. If I am going to repent, I must learn to think that miracles are the normal parts of life!

Jesus came to His hometown in Mark 6 and could do no miracles there. The problem was unbelief, but as you read the story, you realize that the unbelief had a root – the thinking of the people. As the story unfolds, they are amazed at His teaching and miracles, but then they begin to think naturally. He had grown up there; they knew Him as a boy; He had never done a miracle there before! The problem: ***they had grown up knowing a non-supernatural Jesus and their minds would not let them accept the supernatural Jesus in their midst.***

School of Andrew and Phillip



Bible Study: John 6.1-12 Read the story and answer the following:

1. Which disciples' thinking was blocked him from being a part of miracle?
Describe his thinking.
2. Which disciple became the channel for the miracle?
3. How was his thinking different from the first?

Two of Jesus' followers had been with Jesus from the beginning but they had very different thinking inside. They both knew of the miracle working power of Jesus, but one of them could NOT think in terms of miracles. Jesus put him in this situation the Scripture teaches us to test him. To see what was on the inside of him and he failed the test!

Many of us are in the school of Phillip. All we talk about is how things cannot happen. How the situation is impossible. How difficult things are, and we fail the test. We can only see things through the natural eyes like Phillip, for he said, "We are in the wilderness, it is late, we don't have any money, it can't be done."



A few have broken into the school of Andrew. Andrew saw the situation and although his logical mind could not understand how something might happen, he simply believed Jesus could do a miracle. He had possibility thinking and God performed a great miracle through his little lunch.



Bible Study: What do the following Scriptures tell us about our lives being a life of miracles?

John 14.12; Gal 3.5; Mark 16.17-18; Phil 4.19; Isa 8.18; Mark 9.23; Acts 1.8

The Classroom of Miracles

Miracles themselves are meant to teach us. Every miracle has several purposes: to show God's love and compassion to a needy person or group, to destroy the works of the devil, and to be a classroom for God's servants.

In Mark 6, Jesus has just fed the multitude through a miracle. Immediately after the miracle, the 12 disciples face a storm, Jesus walks to them on the water, calms the storm and then rebukes them for their hardened hearts. The Scripture gives us an amazing insight, *they learned nothing from the miracle and Jesus was amazed*. The miracle was NOT just for the multitude, it was for the 12 also, but they were able to learn from it because their hearts were hardened.

What was the lesson in this case? Jesus did not feed the multitude, they did. The miracle didn't occur in his hands, it occurred in theirs. As He blessed the tiny scraps of food and then put it back in the hands of the 12, the food began to multiply as they served it. Their hands and their faith now contained the ability to alter the physical realm to do good, but they never saw it. They simply walked through the miracle taking place through them and missed the entire lesson.

One of the ways to move more and more into a life of the supernatural is to allow the miracles to become a teacher to us. When we do see something happen, we need to take it in and learn from it. We need to open our heart and allow the lies to be erased and God's new truth to be written there.

God's Address

As we begin to try to move into miraculous thinking, one of the primary factors is to discover God's address; that is, where does God reside? Most believers know that God resides on the throne of heaven, but have never made the discovery that He dwells within them in a living and real way. It is very difficult to believe that a God far off in heaven will heal or perform some other great miracle right before our eyes, but when we discover that we are the house of God, the very dwelling place of the Almighty, miracles begin to seem normal to our thinking.

The Scripture teaches that the same miracle working Jesus Christ dwells in each of us.

- **1Co 3:16** *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*



- ***Col 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***
- ***Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.***

When Peter and John walked up to the gate called Beautiful, they found a man begging for money. They responded that they didn't have any money with them, but they did have something else – the presence of God the Son within them. Listen to their response, "Silver and gold we don't have, but what we do have we give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk." A great miracle happened that day because two men knew God's address, their hearts!



TOOL: Biblical Meditation – Talking to yourself about God, your own life, and the world

After repentance, this second action that you can begin to do is critical to the renewal of the inner man. This is how a person takes the truth from the conscious mind to the subconscious or in biblical terms, from the head to the heart. Remember, God desires truth in the inner man, not just the brain!

The Bible speaks all through its pages about meditation. All of the great men and women of God were people of meditation. Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, Paul, they all speak of the lived a life of meditation.

What is meditation? Meditation – Hebrew – *hagah* – “to reflect, to moan, to mutter, to meditate or contemplate something as one repeats the words”^{iv} In the days of the Bible, people were taught to **meditate** upon God’s word. This was the reciting over and over, out loud, what the word of God says with deep inner thinking about it. It is to roll over the Scripture in the head and the heart by speaking it in many different ways to yourself. Meditation to the Jew was to talk to themselves over and over, deep within, about God, His word, and there own lives.

From meditation, “. . .comes a specialized type of Jewish prayer called ‘davening,’ that is, reciting texts, praying intense prayers, or getting lost in communion with God while bowing or rocking back and forth.” It was the combination of reciting the text to yourself, prayer and communion with God and at least goes back as far as David.^v



Bible Study: Study the Scriptures below. What do they teach us about meditation?

1. Ps. 1.2; Ps. 19.14; 49.3; 119.27; Ps. 145.5; Joshua 1.8
2. Ps. 63.6; 77.12; 119.48

Truths we learn from the Scriptures About Meditation

- **We are to meditate in His word day and night** – it is to be a continual process in our day. Cognitive science has confirmed this fact. They also say, that those who learn to meditate several times per day will more quickly transform the thoughts of the subconscious mind – the heart.
- **Meditation is a thing of the heart but it is carried out through the mouth** – we are to speak it out, to God and to ourselves. God told Joshua to meditate upon the word of God day and night by not letting depart from His mouth. It is a form of talking to yourself about the truth of God and His word, but a very large part of that is saying to yourself what God says about yourself. We must create definite truth



statements and make them over and over in many ways speaking the word of God into our own hearts.

- **We are to meditate upon God's word, God's works, God's glory and majesty, and what God says about us** – the Scripture tells us that we are to meditate upon God Himself, God's works, and His truth. This will bring the truth of God into our innermost man. But we must go beyond these, we must also transform our thinking about who we are or God will not be able to work easily through us. We must also form from the word of God, faith declarations about who God says that we are and what He says He will do through us.
- **We should meditate early in the morning and at night upon our bed** – David says over and over in the Psalms that early in the morning and late in the evening upon his bed he met with the Lord and meditated upon His word. It is amazing, but science has again recently proven that the inner heart of man is MOST RECEPTIVE TO TRUTH early in the morning right after waking and late in the evening right before sleep.
- **Meditation is speaking those things that are not as though they were** – the Bible teaches us a powerful truth about God through the life of Abraham. His real name was Abram, but God changed his name to Abraham one year before he was able to have a child through Sarah. Abraham means "father of a multitude." Every time he or someone else said his new name, it was speaking what he was to become, what God was doing in his life before it ever happened. In Romans 4.16-17, we see this clearly as a principle in God. God calls into being things that don't yet exist as though they already exist. In simple terms, God speaks the future as though it were today! This is a powerful principle of meditation for our lives. We see what the word of God tells us about God and our lives and our world and we form clear cut faith statements about our lives that do NOT YET EXIST and we speak them as though we were already that! Again, science has proven this kingdom principle.

Making Meditation Practical

God has given us His Word and the Holy Spirit, but our part is to meditate upon the Word which moves the truth from our head to the deeper parts of our heart replacing the TRUTH there with God's truth. Through meditation upon the Word, we can see our minds renewed and our lives transformed.

#1 Write out specific verses or Biblical truths on cards and begin to recite them – A beginning step is to create a list or a set of cards of Biblical truths you want to internalize. At least once per day, better if three times per day, set aside some time to shut your heart and mind off to the world and begin to speak the word to yourself.

#2 Declare the word of God over and into your heart in every area of your life – your marriage, your parenting, your finances, your relationship with God, how you are toward others, your ministry, etc.



#3 Don't just think the statements, say them out loud to yourself, stopping many times to think about bring the truth deep within your inner man so that the truth is not something you think about, it is what you are.

#4 When you react in sin and in negative ways during your day, quickly confess your sin to the Lord and then declare to the Lord and to your own heart, "That is NOT who I am, I am. . ." Don't focus upon the sin; confess it and get rid of it quickly. Then focus your life upon the positive word of God!

#5 It is best to meditate upon the truth the very first thing in the morning and right before you sleep.



Application:

- 1. WRITE OUT THREE TRUTH DECLARATIONS THAT YOU CAN BEGIN TO MEDITATE UPON DAILY ABOUT A SUPERNATURAL LIFE & MIRACLES.**
 - 2. WRITE OUT 1-3 MEDITATIONS FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**
 - **Your relationship with God**
 - **Your family life**
 - **Your finances**
 - **Your work**
-



Lock On & Block Out Principle



One of the causes of Scatomas in our lives is the lock on and block out principle. It works this way, what ever we lock on to first in an area, we tend to block out everything else. This works especially in the area of trying new ways to accomplish things; we begin think we have discovered **THE WAY** to do something or to approach something, instead of **A WAY**, we have **locked on**, and our mind blocks every new possibility out. Is it any wonder the church has not changed its methods for 100s of years. The key is NOT the method, the key is accomplishing the goal. Don't lock on to structures or processes, we must lock on to the impossible goals God gives us and see Him lead us into the new ways of doing things! This principle is how tradition starts!

Say Goodbye to traditional thinking!

To begin to allow the Holy Spirit to renew our minds, we must say goodbye to traditional thinking. Traditional thinking often stands in our way of having our minds opened to new things the Lord is doing or new things He desires us to do.

Traditional thinking naturally blocks out all other alternatives. This tends to breed a high degree of religiosity with very little true life. Our traditions and traditional thinking blocks the fresh move of God and creativity in ministry.

As you read the Word, you discover that God loves to do things differently. He loves to be creative and spontaneous on HOW things are done. The Scripture clearly teaches us what we are to believe, and what Father wants us to accomplish but does not give us a lot of information about how. In fact, God constantly changed the way things were done from story to story. He is NOT a God of tradition; He is the living Creator who still loves to create.

"I have learned something about God and man. God's character is always the same, but He always does things differently. Man on the other hand, his character is always up and down, but he loves to do things the same over and over."
Graham Cooke

Jesus did not have much use for tradition. The religious leaders of His day were full of tradition, but little life. They had formed a fossilized system of thinking and when Jesus came on the scene, He was blowing away their traditions and traditional thinking. (See **Matt 15.2-6; Mark 7.8-9; Col 2.8**) He lived a wonderfully creative life and Father's creative genius continually flowed through Him.

Pastor David Yonggi Cho, says, ". . .be careful when you feed on the Word of God that you do not confine your thinking to traditional patterns. . .Be revolutionary. Many people are bound because they think only in the traditional, orthodox way, and therefore God is unable to accomplish the great works he desires. . ."vi



Reflection: How is traditional thinking limiting your life & ministry?



RENEWAL LESSON #5



AREA: CHANGE YOUR THINKING ABOUT YOURSELF

Not only what we believe about God is critical to our lives, but also what we believe about ourselves! Many followers of Jesus begin to believe that God is great and can do impossible things, but their big problem is what they think about themselves and how they see themselves. They believe such wicked things about themselves in their minds and hearts that their self-image or their identity is the major blockage to God working in their lives.

Self-Image = The inner picture of who you think you are, what you think you deserve, & what you can accomplish.

WE each form our self-image, our inner picture of whom we think we are. We cannot blame it on our family, our environment, or anything else, we must take full responsibility although all those things help form our identity and self image. Our self image is developed as people, events, successes and failures are processed within our hearts as young children and we begin to say, *‘that’s right. That’s who I am. Yes, that’s true about me.’*



Bible Study: Example: Gideon - Judges 6 – 8

Gideon is a prime example of the power of self-image. Read Judges 6.1-16, what do you see of self-image in Gideon’s life? Did the Lord do great things through him immediately or did He have to change some things in Gideon along the way?

The very first words of Jesus were, “repent, throw out the old thought patterns and take on a whole new way of thinking, for the Kingdom of God has come.” In the Kingdom, Jesus reveals to us that God is a glorious Father who longs to share all of His glory and wealth with His children. He goes on to reveal that we are no longer slaves, beggars or lowly sinners, but in Christ, we are made sons of the Most High God with the full rights and responsibilities of a son!

When we come to Christ, we come with years of inner identity formed by the flesh, the world, the devil, and many negative events. We must throw these off and take on the identity God says of us in His word. We must renew our minds as to what God says of us, not what we ourselves, the world or any other person says.

Most of our identity and self - image has been created by the world. We have been filled with many things like:

- I can’t. . . *I will never . . . *I am just . . .
- God could never do great things through me. . .

Also, when we become Christian’s, the Bible says the **Accuser of the Brethren** accuses us before God day and night (Rev. 12.10-12) creating this feeling within



us (self image) that God is never happy with us; He is always angry with us, and the guilt forms how we see ourselves and the Lord can not flow through us.



Discussion: With a partner – how can you see your self-image and your identity at work in your life? What has had a larger impact on your identity at this point, the Word of the Lord or the word of the world? How will it affect or limit what God does through your life?

Our self – image will determine what we accomplish in our lives. It often becomes the point of release for God to flow through us or the bottleneck in the flow of His Spirit, for most followers of Jesus believe He can do great things, but they also believe that they can't and therefore, that He can't do great things through them.

Our Identity in Christ

When disciples came to Jesus, one of His first works in their lives was to tear down the old image and begin to create within them a new self image based upon God's word and not the worlds.

- Simon – “You have been Simon, but I say that you are Peter” - a rock to build the Kingdom with
- Nathaniel – “Behold, an Israelite in whom there is no guile.”

The New Testament is full of many names and descriptions of the child of God, but the problem is, we believe the old reality instead of the new. We must repent! We must as an act of our will and our faith put off the old identity of the world, and take on the identity God gives us no matter how we feel. We cannot live by feelings, but by faith.



Bible Study: Write out beside each Scripture what God says about you:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. John 1.12 | 4. 1 Peter 2.9-10 |
| 2. Gal 4.7 | 5. 1 Cor 6.19-20 |
| 3. Rev 1.6 | 6. John 15.15 |

Getting over yourself

One of the most freeing things on earth is to really discover that God loves you, accepts you, and can use you just as you are. There is NOT some magical deeply spiritual state you will reach some day and THEN God will love you and use you. He has already decided that you are righteous and holy in His sight and He is ready to fill you and use you right now! You just have to get over yourself, that is, you have to get your eyes off you and get them onto him. This is the amazing freedom of a healthy self-image or identity in God – **it's not about me, it's really**



all about Him. He is able to great things with a little bit, if it is just given over to Him.

Jesus said that in His Kingdom you would find true life by losing your own (Mark 8.35) What did He mean? He meant that always focusing on what you are not – not good enough, not holy enough, not spiritual enough – would only cause you to lose in this Kingdom life. But by simply accepting what God says about you and forgetting about all the rest, you would find real life!



Comfort Zones



There is something within most people which causes them to want to stay with familiar, stay with what they know. The further from the familiar, the more your inward man begins to say go back to the familiar. The key to this feeling of wanting to stay within our familiar is called comfort zones.

We want to stay with what is normal for us. The key is, “What is normal for you?” and ‘Who decides what is normal?’ This inner picture or feeling of ‘normal’ is the wall or ceiling for your potential in life.

When you are above or below your comfort zone, something within you is stimulated to get you back into normal. You can move outside normal for a while and control it by your conscious effort, but when you let go, you move back.

Comfort zone has to do with fear! Our comfort zone is a jail! It drives us back to the familiar always. Fear of...-failure –lack –too much – man’s judgment – new situations –being exposed.

When you get out of your comfort zone:

- You block information coming in
- Restricts recall or memory
- Muscles in upper body restrict—tone of voice understands.
- Upper body restricts—breathing becomes harder, clumsiness can occur
- Stomach secretes more acid & stomach gets upset.
- Knees can get shaky
- Extra perspiration

This comfort zone – the desire to stay in the familiar, the normal - acts as a thermostat within us. A thermostat works to regulate the room temperature keeping the temperature in a comfort zone. When you set the thermostat on 18 degrees Celsius, the cooling or heat unit will turn on when the temperature rises above or drops below the desired temperature in your comfort setting. The cooling or heating unit will remain on until it brings the room temperature back into the set comfort zone.

When someone begins to move outside of the familiar comfort zones, something begins to happen within them that regulates them back into the place they see themselves to be in. They often become their own worst enemy.

How do we go beyond our comfort zone and initiate lasting change?

Change the picture of normal within our hearts! Over time, we can re-write what our inner beliefs of who He is, who we are, and where we belong and change the thermostat of our very lives.



TOOL: Meditating through Pictures – Seeing the New Before it is

God has created a part of our minds called the imagination and many Christians have not known how to use this powerful tool or have even believed that it was evil. The imagination is simply the creative picture part of our thought life and ‘a picture is often worth a thousand words’. Our conscious mind thinks in words, but our subconscious mind thinks in pictures and emotions, therefore our imagination is very critical to the renewal of the mind. When we see pictures, it is like taking a writing instrument directly to the heart to reform the truth there.

The Principle of Beholding: It is a proven fact, that what we fix our attention on and focus upon is what we become. Science has proven it but long before science Dr. Paul from the Bible declared it in 2 Cor 3.18. He says, “**What we behold, we become!**” This will work in both a positive and negative way. If we focus on the world or even our own sinfulness and sins, we imprint the evil in our own hearts, but when we behold the Lord and what He says about us, that is literally what we become.

Another form of meditation that God led His followers into was the using of their imagination, the pictorial part of the mind. Examples:

- Genesis 15 – Abraham just can’t believe that he is going to have his own children. The truth of their barrenness was greater than even the truth of God’s promise. What did God do? He told Abraham to use his imagination. He wanted him to SEE IT in his heart and mind. He told Abraham to go out and look at the stars and that is how many his children will be.
- Other times as Abraham struggled to believe, God told him to imagine the sand on the seashore and said if you could count that, you could count the children you would have.
- Joshua 6 – Joshua is standing before the city of Jericho completely bewildered how they would ever get through those walls. The Lord speaks to him, Joshua, “See, I have given you the city. . .” He told him to see, to picture it in his mind and heart. Seeing always gives us a mental picture. Seeing is not about words but about pictures.
- There are hundreds of other pictures God uses throughout Scripture to create not a word association but pictures in our inner man of His truth. The entire Bible is a book of pictures!

Eph 3:20 –Eph 3:21 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Paul lays this thought clearly in this passage, God is able to do far more than what we ask (words) or imagine (picture) in our hearts and minds. This word for think clearly includes our imagination or the picture portion of our thought life.



Practically speaking, it is great to lay upon your bed and not just speak the word, but to see yourself as what God says. To see love pouring out of your life, to see yourself moving in faith, to see yourself living in the full presence and potential of God. The clearer you SEE, the deeper the pathway into your heart becomes. Allow the Holy Spirit to work with you just as he worked with Abraham, Joshua, David and the great men of old.

Two Ways to Use Your Imagination

- **Forethought:** Many of us are fearful in going into new situations or into situations where we have failed before. Forethought is simply going there in your mind before you go there physically. It is very simple. When you are preparing for a great challenge, ask the Holy Spirit to begin to give you a clear picture of His will and His purposes for that thing you are about to face. Ask Him what the Father would want to do in you, for you, or through you. As He begin to give you thoughts, simply see it happening on the video screen of our mind several times before you ever go in. See that person being healed, the sermon coming out with power, the job you are doing being successful, etc..
- **Seeing the truth on the Inside before you see it on the Outside:** A second way to use the video screen of your mind is to take the biblical meditations about your life and picture them as already true. Ask the Holy Spirit what these truths would look like being lived out in your life. See the love of God pouring out of your life to others, see power flowing out of you, see God's victory coming through your life.

The more vividly you see, the more powerful the transformation within.



Application:

Choose one situation you normally would face that might cause you apprehension or fear. Take time with the Holy Spirit and allow Him to help you SEE yourself in that situation with complete victory and success in what God would have for you.

Choose one of your biblical meditations and take time with the guidance of the Spirit to SEE it as already true in your life. Call those things that are not as though they were within your own soul.



RENEWAL LESSON #6



AREA: ADVERSITY OR OPPORTUNITY

Another area we must renew our mind in is how we face the difficult situations of life. Just because we decide to live in a positive attitude and begin to believe God for abundance and breakthrough, does not mean life will be easy or the road smooth. In fact, Jesus said, that we would face many very difficult situations in this life, but then

He goes on to say that we should be joyful and at peace in the journey, because He has already overcome. (John 16.33) The word Jesus uses in this passage is often translated tribulation or hardship. In the Greek, it is the word, *thlipsis*, which literally means to be put under so much pressure that your insides are squeezed out. Jesus said we would face this many times in the journey of life. How we face it will determine our success, fruitfulness and joy.

How you both **view** and **face** adversity will determine how far you go in life. Here is the big question:

IS ADVERSITY . . .

- A roadblock that will stop you and prevent you from moving forward?
- OR
- An opportunity to believe God and see His greatness come through?

The Bible and Adversity

The Bible is very clear about the difficulties that we will face. It says that every adversity that comes our way is a powerful opportunity. Adversity is opportunity.

2Co 4:17–18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Jas 1:2–Jas 1:4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Rom 8:28 –Rom 8:29 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son . . .”

These Scriptures and many more tell us we must keep a mindset of faith and victory in every adversity that we face. It goes on to say that we can be assured that God is at work in every single detail, some how weaving it all for our good, and His purposes as He conforms us to the image of Christ. It says that the very trials we face produce for us an eternal weight of glory that far outweighs the pains of the moment. It goes on to tell us in the one the amazing passages of the Bible (Romans 8.35-39) that we will overwhelmingly win in every battle through God and the deep conviction of His great love for us!



But the Scripture is clear, we must. . .

- *Remain in faith
- *Remember the adverse situation is temporary not permanent
- *Be confident that victory will come
- *Remember that the trial itself is changing us & effecting God's purposes
- *Keep an Eternal Perspective
- *Count it all joy

Our Adversity Quotient^{vii}

In the last 15-20 years, scientists have been seeking to find the keys that make men truly successful. For many years in the past, they thought it was man's IQ, his level of intelligence. Today, they have changed much of their minds. They have determined that a man's AQ, adversity quotient, or their ability to face and go through difficult times with a positive attitude, is one of the most powerful forces to make us a success or failure.

Depending on how we face adversity and the 'truth' we allow to form within us many people develop an attitude of '*learned helplessness*.' Learned helplessness is internalizing the belief that no matter what you do, it does not matter; things **are** the way they are. This inward belief or 'truth' becomes the overriding force determining how you respond to life. It explains why many of us simply give up, draw back, or simply exist when we face difficulties or trials.

Factors that have been uncovered that create either a high ability to go through adversity versus the internalization of learned helplessness are. . .

- **Control** – Do I have control over my life or does nothing I do matter? Has God really given me power and authority to change the world around me or is it totally out of my control? People who feel they have no power or control over life and what they do simply won't matter, live in the state of helplessness.
- **Optimism vs. pessimism** – Will I face the situation with an outlook that God and I will change this thing eventually and good will come or will I face the difficulty with a negative attitude?

Results of Developing a High Adversity Quotient

People who face adversity with a right perspective develop. . .

- **Hardiness** – the ability to withstand life's harsh situations and continue in faith, hope and love
- **Resilience** – the ability to bounce back over and over when knocked down
- **Mastery of life** – the inner feeling that under God's hand and in His will, He has given me power and ability to win in every situation. I can change my life and the world around me.
- A deep faith in the living God



Discussion: With a partner discuss the following questions:

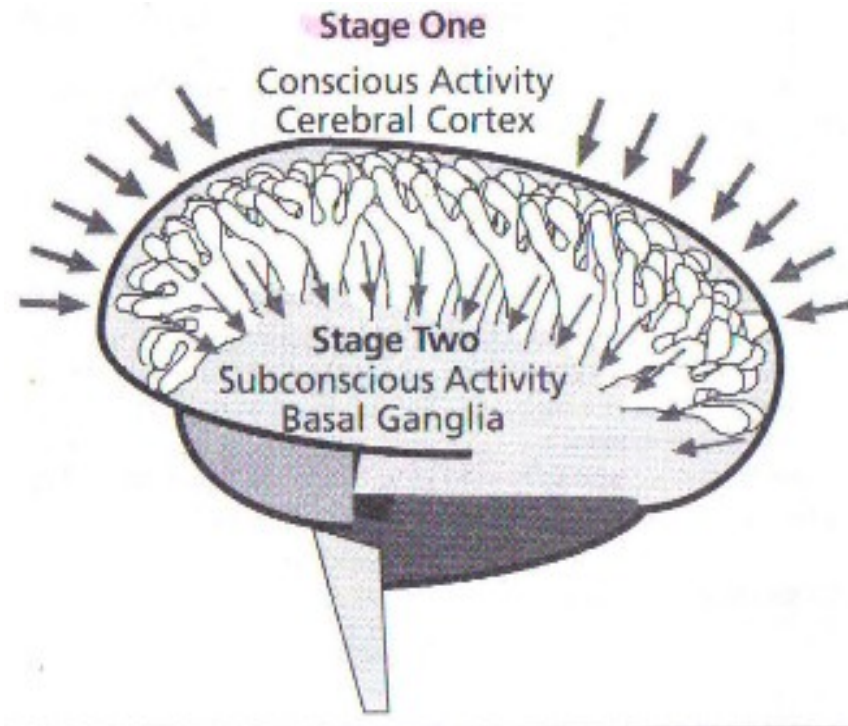
1. How high is your adversity quotient – your ability to face difficulties with a positive, faith filled perspective?
2. When the difficulties of life hit you, what is your attitude?
3. Is there anything you need to repent of (change your thinking about) and give to God?

(Spend some time praying together)



PRINCIPLE: The Science of Change

There has been much study on how the different levels of the mind work in the last few years and everything they are discovering simply confirms what the Bible says! God is the creator of science and all true science always confirms the Bible.



Stage One of

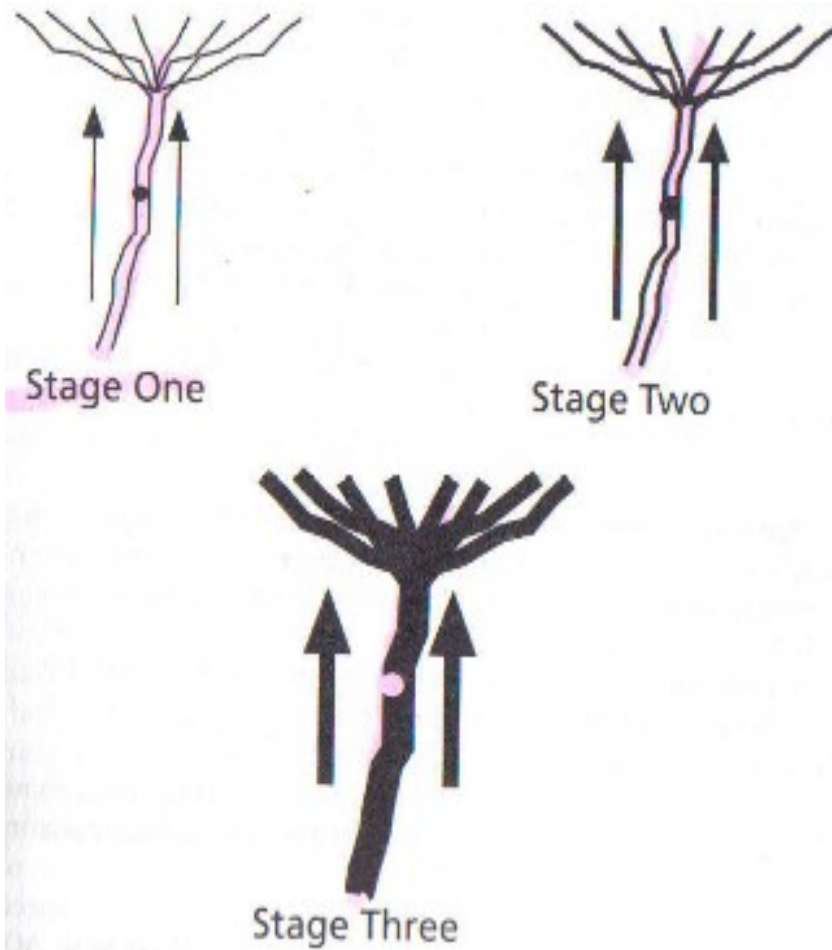
Thought: the outer level of thought or the conscious mind is called the cerebral cortex. It is here that we take in new truth, compare it to what we know deep within, make decisions, etc. This is where we take in the truth of the word of God, but unless we take it deeper, into the deeper stages of thought, our subconscious mind or heart, we do not change.

Stage Two Thought: As we use meditate upon the word, we begin to take the truth from the outer levels of our thought life into the deeper areas of the subconscious. Remember, these thoughts form who we are and how we live.



Creating new trails: When you confess the truth of God, immediately the truth is planted in your heart and a tiny path is created to that truth. As you confess it over and over, it literally thickens that path and eventually creates a superhighway from the outer man to that truth in the inner man. At this point, that truth is not something you simply believe, it is something you are.

In the diagram to the left, you see how this path or trail develops in stages. The key is repetition, dependence upon the Holy Spirit to do His work!



Examples:

When you walk through a jungle where there is no path, the first time you walk a path is created, but still most of the jungle is there and the path is not easily accessible. Over time, as you go down that path several times a day, the path gets more and more clear and efficient until it becomes a road.

When you learned to tie your shoe, ride a bike, or driving a car this is what happened. You don't even have to think about what you are doing, it just happens. What has happened is that you have created such a neurological pathway to the habit in your inner man that it just happens without you trying.

As we developed, we chose to believe all sorts of truth and took it into ourselves, our inner man and we don't have to think about it because there are these deep pathways to this negative thought. Repentance begins to clear away those old pathways to the old truth within and meditation begins to plant the new truth within creating new and ever deepening pathways to the truth until we begin to simply flow and live out of that truth. **What a great God we serve!!!**



RENEWAL LESSON #7



ORIENT YOUR MIND TO GOD'S SUCCESS

Lastly, we must orient our minds to God's success, abundance and victory. There is crazy theology that has plagued the church for years called a poverty mentality. It says that God likes His people to have just enough of His spiritual and temporal resources to survive and then one day He is going to take them out of this terrible world into glory. He will take us to glory someday, but He desires to come for a powerfully successful, abundant bride!

The Bible is full of thousands of promises of God about abundance, success, and victory. Nowhere do you see the word of God saying things like:

- God will give you just enough to survive
- In this life you will be beaten down and just barely make it
- You will have just barely enough heavenly resources to carry on
- In this life you will experience much defeat

No, the overriding promises of God are all about victory, abundance, and success in the Kingdom of God. **JESUS IS VICTOR AND HE LONGS TO POUR OUT HIS VICTORIOUS LIFE INTO HIS CHURCH!**



Bible Study: Read the following Scriptures outlining God's agenda for man:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Gen 1.28 | 5. John 1.16 | 9. Rom 8.32-39 |
| 2. Deut 7.13-20 | 6. John 10.10 | 10. Phil 4.19 |
| 3. Deut 28.1-14 | 7. 2 Cor 8.9 | |
| 4. Psalm 35.27 | 8. 1 Cor 15.57 | |

We must cast out all poverty of spirit and soul. Poverty is a mentality of constant lack and never having enough. It is NOT just about material things, but primarily about the great riches of the spiritual life awaiting us in Christ, and all other resources we might need to live this life in total victory. We must learn to think in terms of abundance, success, and victory for that is the very nature of our God. He is El Shaddai, the God who is more than enough, more than we could ever need.

We Must Learn to Dream

God is a God of dreams! He is the God who gives and fulfills dreams. Pastor Yongii Cho of Seoul, Korea teaches that *visions and dreams are the language of the Holy Spirit*, and when you begin to really work with God and think like God you must begin to dream. You must leave the realm of reason and enter the realm of the impossible, the realm of dreaming.

God is NOT the God of limitations, He is the God of the impossible. We limit ourselves with our vision of God and what He would desire us to become and accomplish. *Do you really believe that your*



dreaming is bigger than God? Do you really believe that God wants to limit who you become and what you accomplish for His glory?

When we begin to dream, we begin to leave the realm of the natural reality and enter the realm of the Other Reality – the realm of the Spirit where all resource and supply lives.

Story: Arab King and Professional Golfer – “I want to bless you.”



TOOL: Setting and Living by Goals

One last component we will touch about the renewing of the mind is the importance of clear cut goals. Goals are critical to changing the truth of the inner man. A goal is a clear-cut stated objective that you will achieve in life. It can be a goal about your marriage, your finances, your faith, your relationship with God or others.

Genuine goals that you are setting your heart upon to obtain change the inner man. They create within you a new inner need, they write into your subconscious that that is what you are now living for, that is what you need in life, that is who are. When you have goals it:

- Releases motivation and energy for life from your heart
- Stimulates creativity and sensitivity
- Breaks down specific scatomas opening your eyes to much more around you
- Gives you a clear sense of purpose and hope

Practical thoughts about goals:

- Don't ever set goals based upon what you currently know or are, set them slightly beyond yourself
- Don't worry if you know how to do it, the goal itself will open your heart and eyes to new things
- Be specific and very clear



Application: Setting Goals

God has always given His people goals. He is the God of grace and He is also the God of goals.

1. **Ask the Holy Spirit to begin to settle into your heart. Ask Him to begin to speak to you powerfully.**
 2. **Think about an area of your life: Relationship with God, Ministry, Family, Finances, Work, Other**
 3. **Set one or two goals in one or two areas above.**
 4. **How and when are you going to begin to live toward these goals?**
-



God's Promise

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

We have a promise from God, as we work together with Him seeing our minds renewed, our entire life will be transformed into His image. Every part of us, every thought, intention, and action will become completely made new and we will literally fully experience the new creation of God. We will become those who think with Him and remove all obstacles to His moving in and through us.

Be patient with the process, it doesn't happen over night, but as you do your part, you can be assured that God WILL do his.

ⁱ Cho, The Fourth Dimension Vol. One, p. 93.

ⁱⁱ Cho, p. 96.

ⁱⁱⁱ My-Inspirational-Quotes, <http://www.my-inspirational-quotes.com/inspirational-stories/cliff-young-a-farmer-who-inspires-a-nation/>

^{iv} The Spirit Filled Life Bible, pp. 753, 754.

^v The Spirit Filled Life Bible, pp. 753, 754.

^{vi} Cho, Volume One, p. 101

^{vii} Adversity Quotient, Turning Obstacles into Opportunities.