



RENEWING THE MIND – PRACTICAL OUTLIVING OF OUR FAITH!

Rom 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the entire [renewal] of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

Rom 6: 13 *Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.*

God wants us to be a transformed people. A people with renewed minds that will honour and obey Him. I often forget that at all times He has my best interest at heart.

This means that I must lay off, not engage in worldly behaviour. What does that mean?

Gal 5: 19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, **20** idolatry, *participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarrelling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, 21* envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **22** But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.

Rom 8: 5 *Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6* *If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace.*

We can avoid most worldly customs and habits, but we can still be proud, covetous, selfish, stubborn and arrogant.

The Holy Spirit has come to re-new, re-educate and re-direct our minds to be truly transformed. It's not just the icing on the cake. But the whole cake has been re-made to meet His specifications.

Eph 4: 22 *throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. 23* *Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. 24* *You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness -- righteous, holy, and true.*

Col 3: 10 *In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.*

What does putting on the new nature mean? It means that we must act like Christians ought to act. It's more than just making good resolutions and having good intentions. It's about acting appropriately.

This is a process. Not an event. The day you and I got saved, is the day this process started. Another way to put it... were all in school. When you became a Christian, you signed up for life-long learning. The more you push in, the more you'll get to know, the more you'll have to change your mind set. Because the more you push in, the more like Him you'll become. We must never stop learning and obeying. There is no justification for drifting along, but there is incentive to find the rich treasures of growing in Him.

When revelation hits our spirit, it produces faith. It creates a pathway of thought within the mind. We start thinking right.

The problem is, we back off. We stumble and fall. Or we take offense. We start drifting away, from the path. We lose heart. And whilst we may not lose our salvation, we get into an area of serious spiritual neglect. A sure sign of this is when we begin to justify our sinful ways. We start blaming ... instead of owning up and trusting God to bring us back to the place where we first knew Him.

When we start thinking right, we start acting right...

It doesn't mean we get it right all the time. At least we are aligning ourselves with what God is doing.

That's when you get a RHEMA WORD from God and you hang onto it... and nothing will move you away from it. Like Hannah, when she got a word from Eli. It wasn't presumption or wishful thinking. It was a faith based on the move of the Holy Spirit on the man of God.

The woman with the issue of blood... in her pain and discomfort. Amidst all the advice she received from people... you must've sinned, you this and that... when she heard Jesus was around those things didn't put her off. She had built up such a head of faith... Jesus couldn't otherwise but respond to her need.

Blind Bartemaues... had a similar experience. He had enough of the sights and smells of Beggar land. He heard a word, the same word the other beggars heard. They had not received the revelation... Jesus said, your faith has healed you.