

Living With Renewed Hope⁵

February 11, 2024

Our Prayer: Lord, Renew my mind to think righteously.

To renew your mind is to involve yourself in the process of allowing God to replace the lies and misinformation in your life with the truth of His Word! It is the work that has been accomplished for us by Jesus Christ which brings the real change in our lives. It is in Him that our character is changed and godly habits are developed.

God has given us freewill and a good mind to be recipients of His grace to reflect Jesus Christ in the world.

Let's say, you have a good piece of furniture that has been stained, scratched, damaged but still has great value. Well, renewing your mind is like restoring that piece of furniture. It is a two-stage process. It involves taking off the old stain, repairing scratches and replacing it with a new finish. The old stains are the lies and misinformation that you were told or shared with those around you. It is the attitudes and ideas that have become a part of your thinking but does not reflect reality. If not removed it destroys trust and integrity!

Watch this and follow me:

I love to watch "Flea Market Flip" on HGTV! God is in the Flea Market Flip business! God takes that person (**like an old piece of used and abused piece of furniture**) who has been under the influence of Satan's lies and deception. When he feels that you are of no use to him, he puts you on the street of life with a sign saying, "Free!"

Scripture Text: Ephesians 4:20-24 NKJV 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

VERSE 20 *But you have not so learned Christ*, Beginning with this verse Paul is presenting the contrast of the old man's behavior and lifestyle in verses 17-19 to show the illuminating difference of the new man. Men (without Jesus) lived to satisfy the desires of their flesh from sexual

perversion to murder and didn't like to retain the knowledge of God. Not being renewed in the spirit of your mind, mirrors the behavior of our world today.

When we became believers, as did some of the Ephesians, we no longer possessed an indifferent heart toward **Christ** but obtained a lifestyle that reflects our relationship. We did not merely learn about Christ from the Bible, but we embraced His love and forgiveness to received new life from Him. **2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

VERSE 21 *if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

What a blessing it would be for them to have heard the voice of Jesus teaching the truth and responding. There were people who lived in Jesus' day seeing and hearing but never comprehending that He was the only way to knowing the personage of the Father. To really hear the voice of the Lord should bring about a radical transformation in a person's life. His words were spirit and life.

We all have been guilty of selective hearing when we assume what is true by closing our eyes and hearts to any revelation from the Holy Spirit concerning Jesus. It is not only what Christ said, but even more what He did and who He is, that makes His revelation of the Father's heart. **John 14:9** Jesus replied, *"Don't you even yet know who I am, Philip, even after all this time I have been with you? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking to see him?"*

VERSE 22 *that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,*

When we are around those old familiar places and people that the Lord has delivered us from, why lower your convictions and compromise because you want to relate. If certain people and places tend to draw you back to your old lifestyle, before your relationship with Jesus Christ, it is a death trap!

The freedom and joy that you experienced when you gave your heart to Jesus Christ and pursued him will become loaded down with the cares of this life. Your joy of His salvation will be cluttered with doubts and fears of the future as opposed to the confidence you once enjoyed in His presence.

VERSE 23 *and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*

The adversary, from the very beginning desired to captivate the minds of God's created beings. He made us in His image and likeness with free-will, without doubts and untruths a little lower than angels. The Serpent said, "You surely will not die, you will be like God... knowing good and evil." The seed of doubt and untruth was sewn in the heart of Adam and Eve. First, Spiritual death (**separation from the intimacy with God**) came through Adam and physical death was inflicted upon Able from their first-born son, Cain. This ushered into the world more sin, sickness, death, grief and regret to all mankind.

The Word of God must continually renew our minds because the enemy wants to control our minds. He knows that if he can control our thought life he becomes the Influencer. The Bible in **Proverbs 23:7** "***As a man thinks so is he***". We are in a constant battle over who controls our minds. **Romans 12:2 NIV** *Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

We must daily hide the word of God in our hearts that you do not sin against the Lord in thought or action and grieve the Holy Spirit.

VERSE 24 *and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

God saved us by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He delivered us from the penalty of death, hell and the grave. He sent the Holy Spirit empowering us to be Christ's disciples to share that He is the True way to know God's love.

We are to be Holy as He is Holy for without holiness no person shall see the Lord! We live each day with eternity in view to meet the Lord in the air!

Applications:

We were emancipated from the law of sin and death to never live again, under condemnation.

Our minds are renewed from the word of God by power of the Holy Spirit.