

Ok this morning lets read from Torah in Gen 22-

## **Genesis 22**

<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

<sup>2</sup> Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

<sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. <sup>5</sup> And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad<sup>[a]</sup> and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. <sup>7</sup> But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son."

Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, "My son, God will

provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. <sup>9</sup> Then they came to the place of which God

had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the

altar, upon the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the Angel of the LORD called

to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

So he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me."

I am amazed at the submission of Abraham's son It doesn't say He fought Him.

This event is a picture of the mistake we make in thinking that the ultimate thing God wants of us is the sacrifice of death. What God wants is the sacrifice *through* death which enables us to do what Y'shua did, that is, sacrifice our lives. Not— like in (Luke 22:33).<sup>33</sup> But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."

We should say— "I am willing to be identified with Your death so that I may sacrifice my life to You Y'shua."

We seem to think that God wants us to give up things! God purified Abraham from this error, and the same process is at work in our lives. God never tells us to give up things just for the sake of giving them up, but He tells us to give them up for the sake of the only thing worth having, Abundant life with Y'shua.

It is a matter of letting go of the weight and sin that hold back our lives. And we can let go by identification with the death of Y'shua. Then we enter into a relationship with God where we may sacrifice our lives to Him. It is of no value to God to give Him your life for death. Unless you are being an overcomer like in **Revelation 12:11(NKJV)<sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

He wants you to be a "*living* sacrifice"— to let Him have all of you that have been saved and sanctified through Y'shua

Romans 12 <sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

This is what is acceptable to God. So how are we to live as a living sacrifice? The next verse gives us a start!

(Romans 12:2).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

So here is the Key= don't be like the world acting and thinking like them= but be transformed by the renewing of the mind!

What does this mean? The world thinking is how we thought and lived before we had Y'shua/Jesus – Natural, fleshly and selfish - not spiritual or thinking of God first.

Be transformed... means "to be changed in form". The electric company delivers power to the homes of American through high voltage lines; but the high voltage must be changed into a safer and more usable form to be used by the appliances in our household. Thus, we all have somewhere outside our homes transformers that convert the high voltage.

The Greek word Paul uses is "metamorphow". We recognize this word as the one scientist use to describe the changes in the butterfly as it goes through a series of changes that take it from a larvae to a butterfly.

So, the Christian goes through a change in form, a spiritual transformation into the likeness of Y'shua! It is a transformation from the image of man to the image of God. This transformation is from our sinful image into the likeness of Y'shua.

(2 Corinthians 3:18) But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of YAHWEH, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

The goal of spiritual transformation is Christ-likeness.

**(Colossians 3:9-11)** <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, <sup>11</sup> where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Messiah *is* all and in all

Let me remind you that, if you want to be like anyone else, you have the wrong standard! But how does this change take place? By the renewing of your mind The Holy Spirit is the renewer or leader and the word is His means of renewal! In it the Holy Spirit portrays before us the image of Y'shua and what it means to be like Him! As we learn from the Holy Spirit, our thinking is changed so that we become a new person.

(Ephesians 4:17-24)<sup>17</sup> This I say, therefore, and testify in YAHWEH, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. <sup>20</sup> But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Y'shua: <sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Paul makes clear the power of spiritual thought. The power for change is not found in us, but in the power of the word of God who not only spoke the creation into existence by His mighty word, but now speaks into existence "a new creation", His church.

If you doubt that power, simply look at the world about you and see what God can do! This renewal is not instantaneous but progressive. We must be patient and trusting as God moulds us into His image. Christ-likeness is not developed in a day; but with time we will see growth and progress in the life of faith. We cannot underestimate the time that we spend with the word of God, whether in public worship and Bible study or private worship and Bible study!

This is the key to the kind of spiritual transformation we need, and that God seeks. And when we give ourselves to such a life of learning and applying what is learned Paul says... That you prove what the will of God is...

The word prove, dokimazo, (dok-im-ad'-zo) means "to test something" or "to discover" something.

The Christian begins to see things about the truth or the will of God. Sometimes people think that following the will of God is the path to misery, unnecessary restriction, and boredom!

Instead, Paul affirms the opposite: It is morally right and thus, good for man. It is acceptable, that is it brings God's favor. It is perfect; it is complete. God has revealed all we need; Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

So, what are some of the Attitudes of mind that need to be renewed here are some scriptural reference!

Rom. 8:5,7 - "mind set on the flesh" \*

Rom. 12:16 - "<sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion." \*

II Cor. 11:3 - "minds led astray from simplicity and purity to Christ" \*

Eph. 2:3 - "the desires of the flesh and of the mind"

Phil. 3:19 - "set their minds on earthly things" \*

Col. 1:21 - "alienated and hostile in mind"

Col. 2:18 - "inflated without cause by a fleshly mind" \*

Titus 1:15 - "their mind and their conscience are defiled" \*

James 1:8 <sup>8</sup> *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

So Fleshy mind, don't be wise in your own opinion, Pride, led a stray, double-minded, Unstable.

God Calls us for renewal

Rom. 12:2 - "be transformed by the renewing of your mind" \*

II Cor. 4:16 - "our inner man is being renewed day by day" \*

Eph. 4:23 - "be renewed in the spirit of your mind" \*

Col. 3:10 - "the new man is being renewed to a true knowledge..."

Titus 3:5 - "renewing by the Holy Spirit"

Here are some Attitudes of a renewed mind

Isa. 26:3 - "the steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace"

Jere. 17:10 - "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind"

Jere. 20:12 - "The Lord who sees the mind and the heart"

Matt. 22:37 - "Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength" \*

Rom. 14:5 - "let each man be fully convinced in his own mind" \*

I Cor. 2:16 - "we have the mind of Christ"

Phil. 2:5 - "have this mind in you which was also in Messiah Y'shua" \*

Phil. 4:8 - "whatever is true, right, pure...let your mind dwell on these..." \*

Col. 3:2 - "set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" \*

Heb. 8:10; 10:16 - "I will put my laws into their minds"

I Pet. 1:13 - "gird your minds for action" \*

Rev. 2:23 - "I am He who searches the minds and hearts"

## **II. Why does the mind need to be renewed?**

The mind has been programmed with natural "established attitudes"

1. These are the beliefs, thoughts, ideas, opinions, convictions, prejudices that we have concerning ourselves, others, objects, activities, God, etc.

How were these formed?

Recommendation (1) of parents (2) of educational system (3) of society (books, television, movies, etc.) (4) of religious training - (5) Our personal observation (6) Our personal experience (7) Our personal compromise

These "established attitudes" permeated with fleshly "personal interest" of selfishness and sinfulness. Create Actions of personal aspiration, gratification, reputation We React by fear and fight back for our rights and revenge!

Even in the church!! **What** If there was a mental-video device that could record all the thoughts that go through your mind, would you want to play it back for everyone?

God knows our every thought-

Jere. 17:10 - "I, the Lord, search the heart; I test the mind"

Jere. 20:12 - "The Lord sees the mind and the heart"

Rev. 2:23 - "I am He who searches the minds and hearts"

Does this not reveal the necessity of renewing the mind?

The mind needs to be renewed with Godly "established attitudes"

Initial and continual renewal of the mind

**a. Initial renewal** - regenerative renewal

Titus 3:5 - "regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit"

I Cor. 2:16 - "you have the mind of Christ"

Heb. 8:10; 10:16 - "I will put my laws in their hearts"

**b. Continual renewal** - sanctifying renewal

Phil. 2:5 - "Have this mind in you which was in Christ"

Phil. 4:8 - "whatever is true, right, pure...let minds dwell

Col. 3:2 - "set your minds on things above"

The thoughts and attitudes of the mind serve as the conduits which allow for us to have Godly behavior.

Prov. 23:7 - "As a man thinks in his soul, so is he (in behavior)"

I Pet. 1:13 - "gird your minds for action"

The combination of our "old established attitudes" develop into a "mind-set"

### **Mind-set about ourselves**

a. false sense of identity b. external orientation - "how do I look?"

c. guilt - attitudes of worthlessness, inferiority

### **Mind-set about other people**

a. people pleasing - self-conscious

b. vain imaginations - fears, phobias

c. attitudes of anger, impatience, hate, bitterness, resentment, revenge, suspicion, criticism, jealousy, unforgiveness, blame, depression, co-dependency

### **3. Mind-set about things**

a. materialism - "what am I going to buy next?"

b. love things - use people

c. addictions to substances, objects, etc.

### **4. Mind-set about ideas**

a. quest for knowledge

b. desire to be correct, accurate, right



## **5. Mind-set about situations**

- a. what might happen; the hypothetical - worry
- b. panic about inability to cope

## **6. Mind-set about God**

- a. irrelevant, out-moded, unnecessary
- b. external, peripheral safety net; mystical, magical

## **III. How can the mind be renewed to develop Godly "established attitudes"?**

A. Established attitudes re-formed to coincide with God's attitudes

- 1. Consistent with His character - purity, righteousness, love, joy
- 2. "Made new again" In accord with the
  - a. newness of life in Jesus Christ - Rom. 6:4
  - b. newness of the Spirit - Rom. 7:6
  - c. new covenant - Heb. 8:8,13
  - d. new and living way - Heb. 10:20
  - e. new creature - II Cor. 5:17
  - f. new man - Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10

Basis of Godly "established attitudes" is God's revelation of Himself

### **1. Natural revelation**

Ps. 19:1,2 - "the heavens declare the glory of God..."

Rom. 1:20 - "His attributes have been seen...through what he made"

### **2. Incarnational revelation**

Lk. 10:22 - "the Son will reveal Him"

Jn. 1:18 - "He has explained Him"

### **3. Biblical revelation**

II Tim. 3:16 - "all Scripture is inspired by God"

Not just Bible knowledge of Bible data or trivia

### **4. Personal revelation**

Phil. 3:15 - "God will reveal it to you"

Rom. 14:5 - "let each man be fully convinced in his own mind"

It Requires personal discipline to renew Godly established attitudes.

I Tim. 4:7 - "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness"

1. Undisciplined minds and thinking retain natural attitudes

2. This is not the self-discipline of self-effort

3. We must discipline (exercise) our minds and thoughts to allow for Godly action mobilized through Godly established attitudes

D. A "mind-set" settled on God and His activity.

1. A "steadfast mind" set on the things of God

Prov. 16:3 - "your thoughts shall be established"

Isa. 26:3 - "the steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace"

a. Not an idle mind - daydreaming, procrastinating, wasting time, fantasizing

b. Mind set on God's character and His ways

Phil. 4:8 - "whatever is true, right, pure...let your mind dwell on these..."

Col. 3:2 - "set your mind on things above..."

2. A "mind-set" that spontaneously thinks of God and His activity

one that says "Yes, Lord" one of worship, b. Joy - Phil. 4:4; I

Thess. 5:16 c. Laughter - Prov. 15:13; 17:22 d. Song in your

heart - Eph. 5:19 e. Love for others - Rom. 5:5; Jn. 13:34

A Change in form of thinking and behavior (transformation) comes as an indirect result of renewal of mind - Rom. 12:2

Based on spiritual regeneration and becoming a "new man" in Christ, the Christian has the indwelling spiritual sufficiency to engage in the renewing of the mind that allows for divinely empowered Christian behavior - Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 "1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?"

Paul is saying here I gave you milk, you heard the gospel, and you were born again, you had a spiritual birth, and I gave you the milk you needed to grow on because solid food would have been too much for a baby. Look at you now; You are still babies walking like therest of the world living like the world. Some of you may fall into this position. Just in case you miss what I am saying let's look at this picture!!

In closing Take your eyes off the false glory of this world and focus on the glory of the risen Lord. Let God change you into what He created you to be—to a child of God like Y'shua! And know that when you do, you will discover that the only thing you have lost is what you didn't need. Instead, you will have found true life an abundant life—the good, the acceptable, the perfect life that God created us to live.