

RENEWING THE MIND

MIND OF THE FLESH VS. THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT

Key scriptures: Romans 8:5-9, Isaiah 26:3, 1 Cor. 2:16

The way that seems right to a naturally minded person leads to death, but the way of the ***spiritually minded*** man/woman leads to life and peace. God's ways and thoughts are so much higher than the wisdom of man. Through Jesus, we can know God's ways and thoughts. We don't have to be left in the dark, not knowing what Father has planned, because we have been given the mind of Christ through the new birth!

1. What are some destructive thoughts of mankind, and how do they produce death in their lives?

2. In contrast, how do the thoughts of God produce life?

3. According to Isaiah 26:3, what is promised to those who keep their minds stayed upon the Lord?

THE BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND/KNOWING YOUR ADVERSARY

Key scriptures: 2 Corinthians 2:11, Ephesians 6:11-12, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Do not be unaware of Satan's schemes. His plan is to bring confusion to your mind and thinking by constantly attacking you with lies contrary to God's Word. Satan's desire is to keep you doubting the truth of who God says you are. He may not get you to turn from the Lord, but he may try to keep you from understanding all the promises Father has given you, so that you remain a powerless Christian. He wants to set up strongholds in your mind that are arguments defiant to the Knowledge of God. If he can get you into confusion, your thoughts will become toxic, and your faith will be greatly hindered. ***No worries, with God you will overcome!***

1. Negative thoughts usually happen as a result of believing a lie about yourself, others or God. What lies have you believed that need to change?

2. Your warfare is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places. Knowing this, how does it change your outlook on dealing with others?

RENEW YOUR THOUGHTS TO GOD'S WORD

Key scriptures: Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 1:22 -23, Ephesians 6:13-18, Hebrew 4:12-13

In Romans 12:2, the word '*transformed*' is the greek word '*metamorphoō*' meaning, to change into another form, to transform, to transfigure by supernatural change. Each day that you renew your thoughts to God's Word, your thinking is transformed to match HIS image in you! Renewing your mind to God's Word is a daily process, and as long as you are remaining truly humble and IN Christ Jesus, there is no condemnation.

If you have struggled with unholy thoughts, lies that have been spoken over you, a reputation that you once had, confusion, unworthiness, vengeance, insecurities or hatred, you are not alone and you **can be set free!** Thoughts are not permanent, and your brain can change as you immerse your thinking and meditation upon His Word. By God's power, your thought life can and will be transformed to match the very thoughts of Jesus Christ!

We each personally must TAKE CAPTIVE EVERY THOUGHT that is contrary to His truth! Put on the armor of God, and take the point of the two edged sword to the back of the enemy, forcing him out of your life. Apply the Word of God like a 'seek and destroy' missile to the lies that you have believed. As you resist the devil and the lies He has attacked you with, he will FLEE!

1. What course of action do we take to root out thoughts that don't belong in our life?

2. Discuss how God's Word sets the standard of our thinking, and helps us recognize the lies of the enemy.

PROSPER AND BE IN HEALTH AS YOUR SOUL PROSPERS

Key scriptures: 3 John 1:2, Deuteronomy 30:19, Philippians 4:8-9

Your **soul** prospering is the key to a prosperous life and a healthy body. Our choices determine life and death, blessing and cursing. God gave us the key, choose life! Thoughts are real, they take up 'mental real estate' in our minds. What we think on builds how we view life, how we view others, how we view ourselves, and how we view God. A prosperous mind produces prosperous relationships, prosperous finances, and a healthy body. In the same way, a toxic mind produces toxic relationships, poverty, and sickness. Choose life!

Our soul will prosper as we yield to the mind of the Spirit and think on whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous and praiseworthy. It does not make you 'weak' or 'in denial' when you do this, it makes you a doer of God's Word. Remember, the way of the spiritually minded person leads to life and peace.

1. Do you have relationships that need restoration? If so, how can you change your thoughts towards that person(s)?

2. Discuss ways to choose life and blessing.
