

KEY VERSES

John 8:34, 36 ESV - v.34 *Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin....v.36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*

Romans 12:1, 2 NIV - *I Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 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.*

TRANSFORMATION AND SANCTIFICATION

When a person experiences salvation, it's an eternal event that happens in a moment; it is a gift from God; and your spirit that was once dead in sin is now alive.

There is a sanctification process where a person's soul and body go through a transformation process.

The birthing of a child happens in a matter of moments, but the raising of a child is a process that takes years.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 ESV - *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

WHY DO WE NEED A RENEWED MIND?

1. _____ is a problem.

- The ongoing practice of sin can enslave us once again to the power of that sin.

1 John 3:9 ESV - *No one born of God makes a practice of sinning...*

Romans 6:12 ESV - *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.*

Romans 6:11,12 ESV - *So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

NOTES

The battle for our freedom from sin begins in the mind.

2. _____ is a real enemy.

- Satan is a thief, and he wants to rob you of the freedom you have in Christ. (John 10:10)
- Satan attacks our mind with threatening thoughts.

Ephesians 6:16 ESV - *In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.*

1 Peter 5:8 NIV - *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

- He is a real enemy, but he can be overcome.

Luke 10:19 ESV - *Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.*

3. _____ are a real threat.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 ESV - *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. v.4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*

- A stronghold of the enemy is a fortress in the mind where ungodly thoughts and opinions are used to dominate and dictate our thoughts and actions.

6 PRACTICAL STEPS TO RENEW YOUR MIND

1. Make an honest appraisal of your _____ to _____ God.

Romans 12:1 ESV- *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

- To move deeply into your freedom, you must make pleasing God your number one priority.

2. _____ and _____ opposing arguments and every lofty opinion which is raised against the knowledge of God.

2 Corinthians 10:5 ESV - *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

- What areas of your life seem to be the most difficult for you to walk in righteousness? Become aware of how you really think and what you believe in those particular areas.

3. _____ every thought and make it give up and _____ Christ.

- Disobedient thoughts left uncaptured will soon become a stronghold in your mind. You become what you dwell on.

Proverbs 23:7 KJV - *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...*

4. Renew your mind with the _____.

- It is not enough to stop thinking your ungodly thoughts. You must begin thinking His thoughts. God's thoughts are revealed to us in the scriptures.

5. Practice God's thoughts until they become your _____.

John 8:31, 32 ESV - *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, v.32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

We must renew our mind with the Word of God!!

6. Live out God's thoughts with obedient _____ every hour of every day for the rest of your life.

1 Peter 1:13, 14 ESV - *"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance"*

A renewed mind is no longer conformed to the past passions a sin-fueled life. A renewed mind is a transformed mind which is constantly prepared to act in obedience to the new life.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Start the conversation to day by talking through sanctification. What does it mean and why is it important in your discipleship journey?
2. What areas of your thought-life does Satan attack the most? Have you developed a strategy to combat the enemy?
3. “A stronghold of the enemy is a fortress in the mind where ungodly arguments and opinions are used to dominate and dictate our thoughts and actions.” Talk through this statement as a group. Can you identify any strongholds in your life?
4. How is renewing your mind through reading the Word daily working for you?
5. Pastor Ron says it is not enough to stop thinking ungodly thoughts. You must then begin thinking *His* thoughts. Give some examples of how this principle is being put into practice in your daily life.