

# Renew Your Mind



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# Renew Your Mind

## Salvation is for the glory of God

Romans 8:28-30

*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”*

Why, a man might ask, does the Lord offer salvation? Is it merely to save you from hell, to forgive you of sin, to bring man to heaven? The answer, my friend, is that everyone God saves is predestined and purposed to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. The sinner is transformed into a light that reflects God's mercies and grace. And in so doing, the Lord God is glorified. That transformation, into the image of Jesus Christ, is the subject of this book. Amen

## The light of the world

Matthew 5:14

*“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*

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*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”*

The salt of the earth, the light on the hill, are not earth’s mightiest heroes, the benevolent, or even compassionate, but believers who glow with the light of Jesus Christ. These are the beloved of God, who are conforming into the image of the Son, the first born of many brethren. (Romans 8:29) We are ordained, purposed, to become a reflection, a mirror image, of his love and light.

However, to be transformed, to become a light in Christ Jesus, the believer must first renew his mind. And in the renewing of your mind, you are able to live out the will of God. But what does it mean to transform? What does it mean to renew your mind?

## Do not be conformed to this world

### Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

If a person has been regenerated by the work of the Spirit, if this supernatural phenomenon has occurred wherein, you are now possessed by the Spirit of Christ, in repentance to God, then you have become a new person, you have been born again. (John 3:3-6, Ezekiel 36:26) However, to realize God’s purpose in salvation and be recast into the image of Christ, you must be transformed.

In a sense you have to shed the old skin, the old self, to bear the new self who is in the image of God. For this to happen there is

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something each believer has to do, he has to change his thinking. For as a man thinks so he is. In changing his thinking, or renewing his mind, it enables the believer to shed the old skin so the Spirit within can shine forth. So how does a believer renew his mind?

It's taken me 15 years since I was born again by the Living God to truly understand what this means. Therefore, I present myself as a witness for God's purpose, a test case, a testimony of what it means to transform through the renewal of your mind. For this is His purpose for those that love Him. This is the call to every believer in Jesus Christ.

I remember, in my journey with the Lord, when the day came that things I once enjoyed became offensive. Movies with violence, sex, foul language, and things that excited now had a foul taste. My eyes turned from things which used to give me pleasure but were now rejected by the Spirit within.

Yet, over time I was asked to watch movies that put me in a state of compromise. I was trying to bridge the new me and the old me to keep the family happy. The more I engaged, however, even with clenched teeth, the less it seemed I became offended. I was slipping back.

My regular Bible studies became optional and erratic. Projects around the house and work soon became the priority. I wanted to write a book about the love of God, yet for some reason the words didn't flow. I soon became disturbed in my spirit. I sought to find peace and rest in entertainment, or maybe, I thought, I needed a different job or a vacation. Then, I was at odds with my wife and considered counseling. Maybe these were the reasons I had no peace in my spirit. No rest in my soul.

## The Peace of God

### Philippians 4:7

“And the peace of God, surpassing all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

I was then led to Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones and his sermon series on “renewing your mind.” Soon I realized it was the Lord who was disturbing me. For he is not a neglectful father but chastises those he loves and who love him. He burns off the dross, the canker of the old man, so the light of the Spirit, the new man, may be a candlestick to the glory of God Almighty.

When the scripture says the “peace of God will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,” it is also saying when you have no peace, something is not right between you and the Lord. For if things were right, you would have peace and rest. The scripture qualifies this doctrine by saying this peace is for those who are in Christ Jesus; the Called, the beloved, those who are predestined to be glorified.

## Do not grieve the Holy Spirit

### Ephesians 4:30

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”

When I realized the state I was in, I began to consider the sermons I heard and went to the Scriptures. Verses I read many times before suddenly took on new light and meaning.

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By consuming that which the Lord hates I was grieving the God of my salvation.

In the days of the Roman Empire, and even later, public entertainment included fights to the death, against men and lions. A Roman Candle was a horrible execution method in which the victim was tied to a stake, covered with oil, and then slowly burned to death. This event would often be used in Roman celebrations as decorative lights; it was a form of entertainment.

In the 20th century those blood lusts and appetites of men did not go away, but were sublimated, reformatted into the movies and media we gladly watch. The thirst for violence, strife, and unhindered lustful appetites were now satisfied in a “civilized” manner.

Whether it is real or a movie that feigns destruction and death, these images satisfy lusts inherent in man. And the Lord hates it. When we consume such content, engage in such dialogue, or partake in the lusts of the world, we grieve God. We hinder our growth in Christ, our transformation, and violate the command to “be holy as he is holy,” to separate from the unclean, to consider yourself pure and sacred unto God.

To renew your mind, therefore, first has this negative component; stop consuming the things which God hates; the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the world, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15). If Jesus Christ would not engage, or partake of this thing, then it cannot be right for me. The Spirit of the Lord was disturbing me, my peace was removed, for I was consuming the ungodly. I had gone back to the slop.

## Put off the Old Man

### Ephesians 4:22

“...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

When we are regenerated the Spirit changes our deceitful desires so they lose their power. Then we are expected to participate in this transformation by “putting off your old self.” In other words, avoid, run from, no longer do that thing which the Spirit has rejected. It can even mean leaving behind friends and associates.

But as I found out, it is possible to go against the grain, but God would have none of it - thus he perturbed my soul, my peace was removed. When I realized I was in sin, hindering the Spirit and God’s purpose for my life, I repented in sorrow.

The Lord then led me to consider what it means to renew your mind, for this is the key to growth in Christ Jesus. This is the key to a joyous life and satisfaction in God. This is how we bear much fruit to the praise and glory of our Lord and Savior. Amen

## The Battle for the Mind

### Galatians 5:17

“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would”

There is a battle between the old man and the new man in Christ Jesus that will continue until the day you die. Therefore, throughout the New Testament we are exhorted to reckon, to consider what happened to us when we were regenerated. On that day the seed of Christ was placed in us, sealing the believer as a son or daughter of the Living God.

We are called to a life not of legalism and dos and don'ts, but to a life in which the Spirit of Christ transforms us. Thus, when the world views you, a new creature in Christ, they give praise to God for this miracle.

A leopard cannot change his spots but all things are possible with God. And in the miracle of regeneration, He creates a new man with new desires and a new life who is growing in holiness. This does not happen because the man made a decision, but because of this wonderful force operating in his soul that is changing him from the inside out.

This is the difference between the moral, generous, religious or kind man, and the beloved of God. We are prisoners of the Lord's love. He works in our spirit to transform us into the image of His son, and works through us to accomplish his will. Our part in this process is first, to not hinder the work of the Spirit, to not grieve Him. Yet, the old self, the world and even the devil will

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battle to control your thoughts and keep you in darkness. For as a man thinks, so he is.

## Mortify your members

### Colossians 3:5

“Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.”

Thus, the Apostle states we are to mortify the members of our body. In the Greek, mortify or as it is translated “put to death,” means to subdue, weaken, make impotent. And the way you mortify your old man is to stop feeding him. Stop doing those things of the old life that bring condemnation on the world. While I was trying to be a good parent to my children, and do the things that made them happy, I was putting their desires ahead of the commandment of God - which was sin.

I once talked to a man who complained about a church brother who chastised him. He explained he was a member of a fraternal order that included men from various religions. In each meeting they would pray to a universal, no name god, and could not invoke the name of Jesus. The brother told this man he should leave the group. However, he said he would never leave because his father, grandfather, and great grandfather had been members. This was a generational tradition he was not willing to break. He openly refused to mortify the old man.

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### Exodus 34:14

“For you must not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. Do not make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you, and you will eat their sacrifices.”

In covenant with this fraternal group the brother worshiped their god, a false god. And all false gods are of the devil. Thus, the scriptures say he gave worship, which is praise and honor, a spiritual sacrifice, to demons. (1 Corinthians 10:20, Deuteronomy 32:17, Exodus 22:20, Matthew 4:10) As the Lord brought prophets to warn Israel, a messenger came to warn this brother. The hope and prayer is that his spirit was disturbed and he would see the folly of his ways.

## Joined to Christ

### Luke 14:26

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”

The Called are a unique people. Loved by God as sons and daughters, eternally joined in Spirit to Christ, as husband and wife. A people for whom the Lord laid down his life. We are treasured more than the heavens, exalted to sit in glory. Cared for, lifted up, made perfect, tears wiped, never abandoned, and held in his hand.

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He is my shield, my God, my protector, my Father, my Lord, my healer, my joy. He comforts me in the dark times, feeds my soul when I thirst. When all have left my side, my God stands by me holding me up, making me firm, giving me hope, calling my name.

Devoted and loving is my God. Praise Him, Praise Him. Oh my Lord I love thee more than words can ever describe. Oh my God, my life, my Father, my everything. My tears wash thy feet for it is all I can offer. My love comes from a heart that has seen thee, and knows you are God Almighty. Praise God.

## Identification with Christ

### Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

The first responsibility in renewing your mind, is to put off the old man. Your second duty is to realize the seed in you is the Spirit of Christ. There is a new name the Lord has given you which will be revealed in glory (Revelation 2:17). Therefore, the Apostle states it is your duty, your worship service, to give your bodies as an instrument to Christ. (Romans 12:1, 6:13) In other words, to transform you must give way for the Son of God to live through you. Before Christ you had a name in the world, but now two have become one, and your identity is Christ. (Ephesians 5:31-32)

Every day you rise you are to set your thoughts on who you are. And who you are is in Christ. You are a son or daughter of the

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Living God. Dead to the world, but alive to God through Christ. You are called to holiness, and to be a vessel for the love, mercies and grace of the Lord thy God. Amen. When a believer does not renew his mind and identify with Christ, he identifies with the world.

I knew a brother, who was in the ministry, that was so involved in a certain political party and their way of thinking, he constantly ranted and raged against the President at that time. At one point, I said to him, I feared he would one day get a shotgun to go after this man; a leader who the scriptures say is appointed by God (Romans 13:1).

The brother consumed conversations, content and media related to a particular worldview. Soon, that led to hatred, strife and anger being spewed from his mouth. Yet, he was tasked with teaching new Christians.

As a result, his testimony was corrupted. He was so polluted in thought, he could not be God's light on the hill. He held the same worldviews as the heathen and haters of God. In other words, his identity was with the world.

### Titus 3:1

“Remind the believers to submit to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and ready for every good work, to malign no one, and to be peaceable and gentle, showing full consideration to everyone.”

This brother never put off the old man. He never heeded the command to come out of the world. His mind was not renewed. Yet, he could cite every scripture in the Bible. And I am convinced he thought God was on his side because of righteous

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indignation. Friend, God sides with no man, and no man is righteous for there is no good in any man. (Luke 18:19) I tell you if this brother was truly Christian, he had no peace in his life.

## Your duty to God

### Romans 12:14

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

To renew your mind means to realize your duty, your obligation, is to God. And that duty is to be His light unto the world. To be a symbol for the Gospel that gives men reason to praise God. To proclaim hope to the gay, straight, black, white, conservative, liberal, Catholic and Muslim. And in this duty, you are to live peaceably with all men, not be an instrument of strife. If you are hated, let it be so because you serve the carpenter from Galilee, and not the dead.

Dear friend, this light unto the world is Christ in you. It is not the result of ministries, church activities, giving to the poor or any good deeds. To become God's light we must not hinder, not impede the work of the Holy Spirit in us. For he will bring you to a full knowledge of God according to the measure given. But the Lord also gives each believer work to do.

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Pursue holiness, put off the old man, love not the world, grow in the Word, fix your eyes on Christ, be obedient to God. When the believer does as God has commanded, it frees the Spirit to manifest Christ in you. He will use your tongue, eyes, hands and feet to do the work of the Father. Now the love, mercies and grace of Jesus of Nazareth shines forth, to the glory and praise of thy God. Amen

As you are growing in Christ, as more of him is manifest in you, your heart grows in love for God the Father. The evidence of God in your heart is you will love your neighbor as yourself. The love of Christ, for sinners and the brethren, will pour from your soul. Amen

## Submit to Christ

### Romans 12:1

“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.”

Your reasonable or expected service to God, is to fully submit your body unto the Spirit of Christ. The scriptures say “You were bought at a price. Therefore, glorify God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:20). When Christ does the works of the Father through you, we become God’s light, an instrument of His righteousness. This is what it means to be filled with the Holy Ghost: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20) Anything that hinders that transformation must be abandoned.

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Too many people spew division and prejudice and do it in the name of God. Yet, their actions are from the flesh and the dark precipice of their minds. How do we know? We know because their words and actions do not glorify the Lord Jesus.

If you are born again, the Spirit in you has a single purpose. He comes to testify about Christ and to glorify His name. (John 16:14, 15:26) Your life now belongs to the Lord. And he will guide you in all things, once your mind is renewed.

## Love not the world

### 1 John 2:15

”Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues *to live* forever.”

All that is in the world, the institutions, celebrities, culture, politics, religion and societies will perish. They serve the flesh and minds of those who love the world and are under condemnation. “Love not the world,” “come out of the world,” are not suggestions; they are commandments from the Lord. Why? The things of the world are of the god of this world, the devil. (2 Corinthians 4:4) They are meant to keep your eyes off Christ and to bring condemnation on God’s children.

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### Revelation 18:4

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

Please understand what I am saying. You are to engage in civic responsibilities, whether it be voting, work or education, as examples. The circles you travel will be where the light of Christ touches the world. However, you can do these things with your mind set on Christ, your thoughts on the heavenlies.

Why get riled up about the news and affairs of the world when God is in control of everything? Why get anxious when you know all things work together for good to them that love the Lord? Why covet when God has said He will provide all you need? (2 Corinthians 9:8, Philippians 4:19)

You cannot, as a child of God, identify with the world. These are hard stops, lines drawn in the sand. You are either for God and obedient to His word, or you are against God and his enemy.

“For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even as I weep, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who have their minds on earthly things.” Philippians 3:18

## As a man thinks, so he is

### 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

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The believer is a new creation in Christ Jesus, a contradiction in society. Your duty, every day you rise, is to reckon or consider yourself God's light unto the world. This thinking leads a man to desire holiness, a desire to please God, a desire to put off the old self. His testimony is true and unstained. In seeing yourself as a light in Christ, the Holy Spirit has the right of way to work in and through you to accomplish God's purpose. Amen

## Feed the New Man

### Luke 4:14

"Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country."

As you put off the old man, you must feed the new man with the bread of God, His Word. For this purpose the scriptures say the Lord gave us teachers, pastors, apostles, evangelists and prophets. The Lord's purpose is to help believers become complete or mature in their faith and knowledge of Christ. It is in completion, or perfection as the scriptures describe it, where the Spirit manifests the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)

When you are filled with Christ the Holy Spirit controls your thinking, for as a man thinks so he is. Now the Spirit guides you each day, according to God's will and purpose. And in this fullness, each person receives a certain measure of faith. (Romans 12:3, 12:6) Here we define faith as a certain knowing, persuasion, and gifts God gives a believer to fulfill his purpose. The result of faith is that God is glorified because faith leads the believer to do God's will. Therefore, faith is always demonstrated

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in the life of the believer, for we do not have a dead faith.  
(James 2:26)

## A Measure of Faith

### Philippians 1:11

“...filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

The Apostles in the New Testament were given great faith in their ministries. They were filled with the Holy Spirit in full measure, who gave them power to perform miracles. We have an illustration of this in Acts 3 when Peter, filled with the power of the Spirit, commands the lame man saying, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!” Peter did not hope this miracle would occur. The Holy Spirit gave him the foreknowledge, in that instant, of what to say without hesitation. He had a “knowing” of what was going to happen.

Other believers, watching this event unfold, might have thought there was some magic in the phrase “In the name of Jesus.” And some, even today, try to command God using those very words. However, they see no results, no response from heaven. Faith is given by God to each servant, that is you and me, according to His purposes. And it is given in different measures or amounts. When we have renewed our minds we can attain the fullness of Christ by knowing God’s will. Then the love, mercies, and grace of the Lord, according to the faith given, can be fully manifest. With that said, there is a common faith given to all believers.

## A Common Faith - Intercessory prayer

1 Timothy 2:1

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people”

As Christ pleaded for our salvation, we must pray for the salvation of our neighbors. And who is your neighbor? Everyone who crosses your path, everyone who the Spirit leads you to mourn. This is the burden of Christ, the common faith that comes upon the heart submitted to God. No one is excluded from the offer of mercy and thus we plead “Mercy dear Lord,” regardless of nationality, orientation, party or rank in society. Amen

Thus, when you are filled with Christ, and know God’s will, and do God’s will, which is faith, there is no greater reward than to hear, “Well *done*, good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21)

## Bear much fruit

John 15:8

“This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, proving yourselves to be My disciples.”

As you conform in greater degree to the image of Jesus Christ, the Scriptures say the believer bears much fruit to the glory of God. This fruit is the essence of our Lord and Savior. The more you are filled with His Spirit, the more you become like Christ in character. The love for the Father is enveloping your heart, leading to godliness, obedience and love for thy neighbor.

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It is Christ who loved the Father with all his heart, soul, mind and strength. He is our North Star who was obedient to God even to death on the Cross. This is the difference between the believer and “good people” exalted by the world. Only one group is born of Christ, loved by the Lord and will see the City of God.

## Love your Enemy

### Acts 6:5

“...They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit”

As your heart grows in love for God you will receive power to love your enemy. By nature, we are self-centered, prejudiced creatures. To love your enemy, those who conspire to do you harm, or whom you oppose, is not natural to man. Christ working in you pours out his love to those you once despised, for God is kind and merciful to the wicked and the righteous.

We are given an illustration of this in the New Testament with Stephen, called a “man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit.” Being filled with the Spirit, therefore, is a condition or precursor to being faithful, to being full of faith. For it is the Holy Spirit which enables us to know and do God’s will. And in the story of Stephen, as he is being stoned to death, he looks to heaven and asks the Lord to forgive his killers. (Acts 7:58-60) In his darkest hour, Stephen was an imitator of Jesus Christ, who from the Cross asked forgiveness for those who crucified him. We can thus say Stephen was indeed a reflection of God's love and mercies. Amen

## Eyes on Christ

### Matthew 14:28

“And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”

In Matthew 14:28 we have an illustration of the battle all believers face to renew the spirit of their mind. Peter sets his face towards Christ and is obedient to the call to “come.” In his obedience the Holy Spirit gives Peter the power to answer that call, for the scriptures state:

“And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.”

With his eyes firmly on Christ, Peter walks on the sea. But suddenly, he takes his eyes off the Lord and looks at the world. He sees the storm and raging waves and fear creeps in. His own mortality and safety become a concern. Then Peter begins to sink, the power of the Holy Ghost had departed.

Before this incident Peter had witnessed the Lord in a storm calming the winds and seas. And when the disciples remarked, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?” it was clear Christ was the Son of God. (Matthew 8:23)

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Peter had seen him feed the 5,000 with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Peter saw the Lord heal the sick, crippled, leprous, and demon possessed. He saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. Peter was one of the disciples the Lord gave power over unclean spirits, so that they could drive them out and heal every disease and sickness. Peter knew the words of the Lord that he should not fear men who can kill the body, but he should fear God who can destroy both the body and the soul in hell. He knew that whoever denied Christ before men, Christ would also deny that person before God in heaven.

He heard the Lord teach as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. Peter knew that great would be his reward in heaven for the Lord told him so. And lastly, before him stood Jesus on the water, displaying divine power. For when the disciples had climbed back into the boat, they worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God!" (Matthew 14:32)

When Peter saw Christ walking on the sea, all these things ran through his mind. Before him was God come in the flesh. Therefore, when the Lord commanded him saying "come," Peter knew he was going to walk on water.

Yet, despite all he had seen and known of the Lord, Peter in that moment became afraid. When he glanced at the storm, personal and earthly concerns, that any man would have, overtook his mind. And in an instant Peter's faith failed. He feared the world; men, storms and death more than he feared God. If Peter, who walked with Christ for years, could waiver in faith, how much more vulnerable are we?

## A greater destiny

In life fears, doubts, and temptations will come. The deceit of false Christs will call. Life will bring sickness, calamity and storms that can toss us to and fro like a boat in rough seas.

However, we are called to a greater destiny in Christ Jesus. We are called to be God's light in the storm, called to walk on water if it be the will of God. We are called to be that candlestick in the dark, that some may be saved for His glory and praise. Amen

Therefore, to fix one's eyes on Christ, means to consider who Christ is, who we are in Christ and what we are called to do. To allow these considerations each day to fill our thoughts, and to leave no room for the world. For in him is our strength. He is our rock, our divine help in all seasons.

## The renewal of Peter's mind

In the storm Peter took his eyes off Christ, in fear. Later, his faith would again fail when he denied the Lord three times, also due to fear. When the Lord was resurrected the disciples, including Peter, doubted the reports of Mary and others that Jesus had risen. They failed to believe even though Jesus had said three times he would rise on the third day. (Matthew 17:23, 16:21, 20:19)

The question then arises, when did Peter renew his mind? When did he fix his eyes on Christ and put off the old man? When did he grow up in Christ and become God's light unto the world?

In Acts 1:10, after the resurrection, we are told Peter and the other disciples "looked intently into the sky" marveling at the ascension of Christ. Just before the ascension, however, Peter

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was asked three times if he loved Jesus, for Peter had denied the Lord three times. His soul hung by a thread over the pit of hell, for the Lord had said whoever denied him, He would deny before his Father in Heaven. (Matthew 10:33, Mark 8:38, Luke 12:9, 2 Timothy 2:12, Luke 9:26).

Then the scriptures say, "Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me?" (John 21:17) The Greek word used for grieved in this verse means to suffer severe distress and pain. In other words, remorse and godly sorrow filled Peter. He was a broken man, seeing clearly for the first time the depth of his sin, his betrayal of faith and his own weakness. The Lord had questioned Peter's love, a man who once thought himself esteemed, but was now the least of men.

Peter's heart was cut and his spiritual frailty laid bare. It is only when a believer, in godly sorrow, has emptied himself that he is right for God to fill. In that moment, the fear of death lost its sting. The fear of men and storms seemed like a distant memory. As pain ripped his spirit, Peter realized before him was the author of life and death. The Christ, who questioned his love.

Broken in spirit and downtrodden, I believe this was the moment Peter mortified his old man in repentance. For Peter, his old man was the fear of death. For others it might be pride, a persistent behavior, a besetting sin, loyalty to religion or tradition, or lust, fear or hatred of something or someone. Whatever it is, if it grieves the Lord, it must be mortified.

As his heart repented, the Lord comforted and reaffirmed Peter with two commands; "Feed my sheep," and "Follow me." And when Peter raised his eyes to look up, he saw something new. Here was the one in whom he would find strength. Here was the Lord who held his life in his hand. No longer would Peter fear the world, but would fear God. Amen

## Repentance

What greater motivation can there be, to put off the old man, than knowing we grieve our Lord and Savior. To become a man of God and fulfill God's purpose, Peter's heart had to be broken. For a broken and contrite heart, broken with sorrow for sin, is a pleasing sacrifice to the Lord. (Psalm 51:17)

When the Lord ascended, and Peter gazed up high, he had now witnessed Christ walk on the seas, resurrect from the dead, and rise into the sky. Here was God, he who commanded life, the seas and very air we breathe. Emptied of himself, Peter had nowhere to go but to the Nazarene who was crucified and risen. Amen

Thus, in Acts Chapter 2 when the Holy Ghost fell upon him, Peter's faith was filled in full measure. His spirit was "good soil," fertile, and ready to receive power that would make him a vessel for God's praise. (Matthew 13:8) Never again would Peter's eyes leave Christ, even unto death, his own death on a cross. (John 21:18-19) Amen

## Work out your salvation

"Transform!" is the cry of the Apostle Paul. Put to death the thinking and ways of the old self with godly indignation, repentance and sorrow. Place your gaze upon the heavenlies. Know you are called to be God's light. Know in whom you have believed and your duty to Him, for you were bought at a price.

When our eyes are not fixed on heavenly things; the love, holiness, sovereignty, obedience and stated will of God, when we are not feeding on the bread of God, then we are susceptible

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to the winds, storms, fears, lusts and deceit of the world. And when your eyes are on the world, the Holy Spirit cannot give the power or peace of God.

But praise the Lord he is a good Father and will not let us sink in despair. As Christ stretched his hand and lifted Peter from the seas, when his faith failed, so the Lord will lift you up, for he is our rock and redeemer. "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6) Amen. There can be no greater assurance of your salvation, no greater comfort than these words to every believer, Amen.

## Renew your mind daily

### Deuteronomy 11:18

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes."

In practice, we have to renew our minds daily. Tie as a band around your head the comfort that God is in control of everything that happens in this world. Wrap around your wrist the Word that all things happen for good to those that love the Lord. Bind your waist with the assurance of your eternal salvation and a new home. Cover your heart with the conviction that nothing can separate you from the love of Jesus, not even death. And finally, shod your feet with the call to be God's light unto the world.

Thus, when the darts of fear, unholy thoughts, or uncertainty come from the wicked one, they can be extinguished. When news, politics, catastrophes, plagues and wars strike terror in

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the land, we are not moved. When friends, work or family tug you to compromise, you can resist. When those whom you despised gather, the mercy of Christ will greet them. Our trust and faith is in God Almighty.

## Know the will of God

### Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”

The Scriptures tell us that when one renews his mind he can recognize and know with certainty the will of God. This is a tremendously important scripture. Using an analogy, a mind renewed is like an antenna that can pick up a certain radio frequency, a broadcast, where you clearly hear the Spirit of Christ.

In this state of mind there is no distortion in hearing. The communication is clear, the Spirit is not hindered. He is in control and can guide you in all things pleasing to God. Ephesians 5:8 reaffirms Romans 2:12 when it says the evidence you are walking or living as children of light, is you can discern or understand the will of God.<sup>1</sup> Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 5:8

“For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in *the* Lord. Walk as children of light— for the fruit of the light *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth— discerning what is well-pleasing to the Lord.”

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This is what it means to walk in the Spirit, to live by faith and not by sight. God is now in the driver's seat and your footsteps are ordered. Nothing is yours, but you have everything. You are helpless, but always in control. You are poor, but abundant in riches. And you are weak, but strong in Him. Here is where the believer experiences the greatest joy in Christ, joy the world cannot receive. Praise my Lord, my God for what he has done.

“For I shall teach you; I shall make known to you the way in which to go and I shall set my eyes upon you.” (Psalm 32:8)

Praise the Lord

## The Lord is my Shepherd

### Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside quiet waters.  
He restores my soul;  
He guides me in the paths of righteousness  
for the sake of His name.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;

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my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

Psalm 23 is a wonderful illustration of the believer who has renewed his mind. Here we see one who is a reflection of the love of the Lord thy God. Let us look at each verse, therefore, and consider its meaning.

**The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want:** A mind renewed, that has put off the old man and fixed his eyes on Christ, is discerning the will of God, day by day. He is our shepherd as we walk by the Spirit. Our desires are to please him, and be more like Christ. In the Lord God we are now satisfied. Amen

**He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters:** The peace of God, peace that the world cannot receive, is all about you. Amen

**He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for the sake of His name:** To restore means to bring back, to renew a right spirit in the heart of the believer. Once the mind is renewed God can guide you in the paths of righteousness, for his glory and praise.

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me:** The world is the shadow of the evil one, a place of darkness, decay, and death. However, if your eyes are fixed on Christ, the affairs of the world do not move you, the storms do not

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bring doubt, and death has lost its sting. You know in whom you have believed.

**Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me:** In this verse “comfort” (Hebrew translation) means to console one who has repented and is sorrowful. (Psalm 147:3) In other words, the hearts of those who have repented unto God, those who have put off the old man in godly sorrow, will be comforted. First, the rod of correction brings discipline and wisdom which trains a believer in the right way of God. (Proverbs 29:15, 22:6) This brings comfort because “the LORD disciplines the one He loves, as does a father the son in whom he delights.” (Proverbs 3:12). We have no doubt he is our Father, and we are his children.

Then the staff of the Lord, as used in the Old Testament, brings forth water to quench the believer’s thirst and to defeat their enemies. Truly He is Jehovah-Jireh, God that provides. He is our shield and bridge over troubled waters for the Lord has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies:** The world and the devil have no more say in your life, and can only gnash their teeth from afar as you sup with the Lord.

**You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows:** Everything the Lord intended for you, all your needs and more are provided. Truly you are blessed.

**Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life:** The believer knows that his life is in God's hand. Even when he doesn’t understand the “why” of situations,

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he knows God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called, according to His purpose.

**And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever:** The helmet of salvation is assured, the light of Jesus Christ shines forth, and the love of God, what he has done to a sinner like you, is a testimony to the world. Amen

## Epilogue

To complete my story, when I truly understood what it meant to renew your mind, my heart fluttered as the wings of a bird. I experienced a rush of joy that shot up like water from a spring. This was the Holy Spirit telling me I had grasped, or gotten a hold of, godly truth. No longer were scriptures about renewing your mind just words, but now matches that were lit, bringing light to my soul. And in my heart, I grew a measure in Christ, Hallelujah!

Literally the same day peace was restored to my spirit and the Lord released me to begin this book. Amen.

Every day, there are four things I say to myself or pray:

- **My identity is in Christ.** I am neither Baptist, conservative, liberal or wear the label of any other group. I am even hesitant to say I am Christian because of the corruption of that name. I am a son of the living God. Born under sin, and raised to new life by my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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- **My duty is to God.** My life is not my own. I belong to the Lord. If any group, church or leader proclaim another gospel, run beloved, for condemnation will follow.
- **I am called to be God's light unto the world.** This is the call for every born again believer. I am led by the Spirit to be holy as my Father is holy. My work is to not hinder the Spirit, but to give my body fully unto Christ, so he can do the works of the Father.
- **I pray for power to answer this call.** I pray to the Lord for the power to carry out his will. This is a prayer the Lord is eager to fulfill for every believer. It is in essence the same humble request Peter made when he asked the Lord, "bid me come unto thee on the water." Peter then received power to answer the call. Amen

## The Christian Life

Too many believers do not experience joy in Christ. Too many chase blessings and the desires of their old man. Too many do not have peace in their soul. Too many do not know the abundant life God has promised in Christ Jesus. And too many fail to bear much fruit to the glory of God.

Dear friend, if this is you, then perhaps the answer is to renew your mind. I pray this book is a blessing to my beloved brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

Praise the Lord my God for what he has done to a poor sinner like me. Amen

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