

REVIVE CHURCH- RENEWED MIND=RENEWED BEHAVIOR

EPHESIANS SERIES #15

A couple weeks ago we talked about the fact that if we have been born again of the Spirit of God, we are a new creation and we are going to walk in a totally different manner than when we were living in sin. Last week we focused on the 5 fold ministry giftings that Jesus left the church which have the primary purpose of equipping, and bringing edification to the body of Christ so that everyone is enabled to fulfill their call.

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

*Eph. 4:17*This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

I want to spend some time today focusing on the mind, because it is where every believer is meant to get their breakthrough, it is the area that leads the rest of your body.

When we were born, most of us came out of the womb, and into this world, head first. If you want to come out of darkness and into His light , your head has to come out first.

The mind (our thought life) is the area that comes under the most attack and it is the area that needs to be made new. Repentance in the Greek is a change of mind (From thinking in a carnal or demonic way to thinking like Christ) followed by a change in direction. We have to think different if we are going to live different. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that we must cooperate with **A renewed mind will lead to renewed behavior. Rebirth then renewal.**

Paul points us directly to the problem that is in the mind of the sinner. It is futile, completely devoid of truth.

*Eph. 4:18*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; 19who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness

These verses describe the nature of life before salvation. The characteristics of the way of darkness. People are not inherently good rather inherently evil. This is why we need saved!

Futility of the mind includes:

- Emptiness of purpose
- Darkened understanding
- Alienated from the life of God
- Ignorant of God
- Blindness of heart
- Being past feelings
- Given themselves over to lewdness
- To work all uncleanness with greediness

Unbelievers/sinners-which is the common denominator for every human are not evil simply because they do evil deeds, the issue is far deeper than that it flows from the very nature of everything that we are prior to being born again. An unbeliever has a mind and heart that rejects God and His revelation (Read Romans 1). One could say we are not just sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners, it is our nature. Romans 1 calls it a debased mind. This is why it is so miraculous that in this state, Jesus saves people!

Eph. 4:20 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:

Four verbs in verses 20-21 give us incredible insight and the antidote to the Gentile (Sinner) way of life and its destructive response to God. The four are 1. Learn, 2. Hear, 3. Is, and 4. Teach. **The Ephesian church and all believers must embrace God in these four ways.** They become learners, they have learned Christ. Look at the verse again, it does not say they have learned about Christ, they have learned Christ Himself!

1. The word **learned** is related to the term *disciple*. They have become true followers of Jesus Christ, imitating His life and thought. Disciples are schooled by Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit within us doing the work of formation, giving us revelation of Christ and the strength to accomplish what He calls us to do.
2. The Ephesians **heard** Him! Again, the issue is not focused on hearing about Christ rather responding to Christ call themselves. Every believer must hear the voice of God calling them and respond by faith, Yes, I will follow.

3. They were **taught** by Him. **Christ Himself taught the word of God and the Holy Spirit of God teaches us.** We need the resurrected Christ teaching us.
4. The last verb **“is” could** be easily missed, **Truth is only found in Jesus. He is the embodiment of all truth.** Of all the things studied, Christ must be all in all. **John 8:31-32 (NKJV)** 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

There is the continuation of all of these things for the maturing believer.

Eph. 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

1. Put off everything that concerns your former conduct when you walked in darkness.
2. The old man has to die so the new man can be resurrected
3. We must apply ourselves to having a renewed mind (the mind of Christ)
4. We walk the road of righteousness and holiness

Repentance yields wrong thinking to the truth of God’s written word. The disciple of Jesus will not be content outside of thinking like Christ. **The power of the Holy Spirit blesses the yielded repentant son and daughter of God and strengthens them in grace, transforming the longings of our heart to please our Father while equipping us to accomplish this.**

Romans 12:2- 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.

The Renewed Mind is key to your breakthrough

The place of formation where mind renewal take place is with the person of Jesus Christ and our agreement with His word. It is in this place of hiddenness that we began to repent of any thoughts are less than Jesus truth.

- Alignment with the word of God is necessary for us to walk in His righteousness and holiness. **Christ is only formed in you as His word is engrafted into your heart.**

- **We participate by living in agreement with His truth, speaking out only those things that are in alignment with Him. We cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit by daily eating, digesting, and assimilating His living word.**

God is restoring His image in us through His word!

- Every time you speak in faith, it creates a stronger image inside you. Our continual yes to God permits Him to work from the inside to fully restore His perfect image in us.
- We could be in need of His power over temptation, deliverance from a stronghold or hurt or it could be physical healing we are in need of.
- **His image is created by His word and our continual affirmation and agreement.** The power is in the word of God and as we step into full agreement with His eternal word we are impacted by its power. **What is written in Scripture, must become written upon our hearts.**
- **Positive confession of truth is essential.** The word of God has power to separate lies from truth. In time and through our application of the Scripture, the image God has for you will be perfected by the word of God and the image He has for you will become the image you have of yourself.
- You will begin to see yourself whole, which is the way He sees you. *God is speaking a higher Word and greater Truth than your current circumstance. When the word becomes engrafted (implanted) into you it infuses His life into you!*

John 17:17 (NKJV) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Confess what is truth, not what you feel. We possess what we confess. ***We possess salvation by confessing Jesus as Lord of our lives. We possess God's promises by confessing them with our mouths.*** When you regularly confess only what you feel and see, you are hurting your faith and not helping negative thoughts to leave.

The renewed mind that we are meant to be transformed by is the mind of Christ. We cannot access it by our flesh but only through the Spirit. **We must learn by the power of the Holy Spirit to discern between our thoughts and His thoughts (Truth) because they are not always in agreement.** This is the renewing of our mind. **1 Corinthians 2:16 (NKJV) For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.**
Communion

Luke 22:19-20 (NKJV) 19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke [it,] and gave [it] to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise

He also [took] the cup after supper, saying, “This cup [is] the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

Home groups

1. Discuss-When we were born, most of us came out of the womb, and into this world, head first. If you want to come out of darkness and into His light , your head has to come out first.
2. Discuss the process of renewing your mind and why it only starts when we are born again.
3. Why do our words carry so much power? How are you growing in speaking God’s word instead of how you feel?
4. Discuss-**Positive confession of truth is essential.** The word of God has power to separate lies from truth. In time and through our application of the Scripture, the image God has for you will be perfected by the word of God and the image He has for you will become the image you have of yourself.