

Our Waiting has Purpose

God created humanity with a beautiful, open, and light filled heart.
That same heart became damaged, closed, and overwhelmed with darkness as soon as God's best was ignored.

Renewal is possible...For Scrooge it took place through 3 ghosts.

A reflection of the Past

A understanding of the Present

A realization of the Future

For us renewal is guaranteed through Jesus.

Colossians 1:21-22 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

1 John 1:6-7 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

We wait, because we are being changed. Day by day transformation.

Lasting change is a result of wise and intentional vulnerability.

Question: How has 2021 spoken to the core of your humanity? What has it exposed? What renewal needs to take place as you prepare for 2022? What vulnerability has been revealed and who is the Holy Spirit asking you to trust?

Side Note: He would not ask you to trust someone who is not trustworthy?

The light of Jesus reveals and it heals.

God is actively engaged in waking us up to an infinitely greater reality that is found in the light of his presence.

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Testing = Waiting (Filled with purpose)

“Our essential nature as active and creative beings depends upon our ability to envision what is not the case, as well as what is. Our ability to plan for the future must constantly run ahead of reality. And this we do in thought. A will that runs ahead depends, of course, upon our ability to think; and what we think, imagine, believe, or guess sets boundaries to what we can will or choose, and therefore to what we can create.” ~ **Dallas Willard**

Thought involves **four main factors:** ideas, images, information and our ability to think.

These factors are important to understand if we want to embrace the renewal that Jesus is offering.

Transformed Ideas

Ideas -> general assumptions about reality.

- Many ideas are shaped by cultural norms (difficult to recognize influence).
- To begin transformation we must engage in aligning ourselves with the idea system (heavenly thinking) of Jesus rather than the idea system of the world (earthly thinking).

Soul Earthquake -> one of the most difficult and painful things in human life.

- Genuine conversion is an overwhelming experience
- Jesus is engaged in complete idea shifting.

- **Mark 2:21-22** “No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. **22** And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

Transformed Images

Images are concrete and specific. They are also heavily layered with feeling/emotion. They are very closely linked with the force of perception.

- The Cross is a powerful image
- The presence of evil constantly tries to shape our image of God
Is God gracious or depriving?

“Our idea of God [should] correspond as nearly as possible to the true being of God...A right conception of God is to practical Christian living, what the foundation is to the temple; where it is inadequate or out of plumb the whole structure must sooner or later collapse. I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignorant thoughts about God.” ~ **A.W. Tozer**

Actions must be taken to replace lie based thinking with truth centered on Christ.

Romans 1:25 “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Transformed Information & Thinking

Gathering and experiencing information for the purposes of rightful thought.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Proverbs 15:26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord, but gracious words are pure.

Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Luke 6:45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Core Value of Truth...

What is thinking?

- It is the activity of searching out what must be true, or cannot be true, in light of given facts or assumptions.
- It extends the information we have and enables us to see the larger picture, both clearly and wholly.
- It reveals falseness, inaccuracy and error to those who wish to know. It is a powerful gift of God to be used in the service of truth.

To bring the mind to dwell intelligently upon God as he is presented in his Word will have the effect of causing us to love God passionately, and this love will in turn bring us to think of God steadily.

Question: What patterns need to take place for my ideas, images, information and thinking to be transformed by the Holy Spirit?

Are you expecting change? Are you receptive to the continual after shocks of a soul earthquake?

In 2022 will you be a disciple of Jesus who listens to truth, receives truth, talks with others about truth (open to refinement), and shares truth?