

## **Cultivating The Mind I CL Talks Episode 25 & 26**

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When a person receives Jesus Christ as Lord of his or her life, the Bible states that we are born again by the Spirit of God.

**John 3:3 NKJV** - Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

### **How does this instantaneous supernatural transformation happen?**

**1 Peter 1:23 NKJV** - having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever... A person is a three part being: spirit, soul, and body; my spirit, when I receive Jesus Christ as Lord, becomes brand new.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV**: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

But our minds must be cultivated by removing the corruptible seeds of unbelief, from my old way of thinking, to a new way of thinking 🤔.

**Philippians 2:5 NKJV** - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus..

### **How do we get the same mind like Jesus?**

1. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth:

**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.

2. The Word of God:

**Romans 12:2 NKJV** - 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.

Our mind is like our own garden, a garden must be cultivated, protected, and we are constantly and consistently removing weeds.

**Cultivate means:** to prepare and work on (land) in order to have a harvest of crops; to till; to promote or improve the growth by labor and attention; to develop or improve by education or training.

Sometimes we want quick fixes to complex problems but we have to be willing to engage in a process to partner with God and do the work that produces transformation and freedom.

**1 Corinthians 3: 9-10** - For we are God's fellow workers [His servants working together]; you are God's cultivated field [His garden, His vineyard], God's building. According to the [remarkable] grace of God which was given to me [to prepare me for my task], like a skillful master builder I laid a foundation, and now another is building on it. But each one must be careful how he builds on it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is [already] laid, which is Jesus Christ.

You cannot rebuild a marriage in one counseling session. Most cannot find freedom from addiction from attending one prayer meeting. Freedom from lust isn't won through simply listening to a message on Sunday. Breakthrough with depression isn't found through a self help podcast. We have freedom from our crippling sin problems and access to transformation through Jesus but we have to recognize there are tools we need and steps we have to take in order to experience this powerful transformation.

#### 1. What are weeds?

Weeds are anything that grow between us and God, they are the things in our lives that hinder us from bearing fruit.

**Matthew 13:22 TPT** - The seed sown among weeds represents the person who receives the message, but all of life's busy distractions, his or her divided heart, and his or her ambition for wealth result in suffocating the kingdom message and prevent him from bearing spiritual fruit.

**Luke 8:14 TPT** - The seed that falls into the weeds represents the hearts of those who hear the word of God but their growth is quickly choked off by their own anxious cares, the riches of this world, and the fleeting pleasures of this life. This is why they never become mature and fruitful.

**We see a direct correlation between weeds and hinderance to our growth.**

A life and mind that has weeds in it is distracted, full of anxiety and fear. When we allow weeds to stay we don't have room for the word of God to transform the garden of our minds because it is filled with the cares of this life and our own ambition and desire to achieve a successful life in our own power.... this SUFFOCATES the word planted in us...

**1 Corinthians 15:33-34** - Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.' Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

2. Where do weeds come from?

Sometimes weeds have been planted there by other people (Abuse, divorce, family trauma, events that are out of our control; words are seeds that can be weeds of confusion about our identity and a negative outlook on life; those weed seeds can come from a variety of sources, from family, relatives, teachers, friends, TV, radio, and music)

Some things have been planted in us just because we live in a fallen world and have experienced the hurt and sin in others lives...

That does not leave us hopeless! We have the ability to walk in freedom from those things.

We can't hate these people. Just like Pastor Cameron said a few weeks ago "these are the arrows" You cannot focus on the arrow. You have to focus on the archer, on the enemy that is intent on choking out the destiny God has given us.

3. In this transformation process we need to receive Gods grace and be patient with ourselves WITHOUT excusing the things that we are inconsistent with who we really are as sons and daughters of God.

Sometimes people end up embracing their weeds and just saying "this is who I am, deal with it!" This whole doctrine of "just be you" "well this is my personality..

Your sin and dysfunction are NOT who you ARE. Those things are not your identity.

**Galatians 5:22-23** - This is who we really are! This is the fruit of being Sons and Daughters of God. People of love, joy, peace patience.

**John 10:10 NJKV** - The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Your full potential is NOT just embracing all your weaknesses and the your bondage to your past, your true identity is who are in Christ. You have the opportunity to walk in abundant life! You are made NEW

**2 Corinthians 5:17 TPT** - Now, if anyone is enfolded into Christ, he has become an entirely new creation. All that is related to the old order has vanished. Behold, everything is fresh and new.

4. Effective tools to kill weeds:

a. Hearing and RESPONDING

If we hear the word without responding that would be like me listening to all the advice people gave me on facebook and just hoping their advice would automatically cause the weeds to go away. We had to actually go buy the weed killer, we had to apply it and wait for the process to kill the weeds. Then I had to go buy a weed remover tool and then get out in the hot sun and remove each weed by hand.

**We must hear AND respond to the word!**

**James 1:22-25 TPT** - Don't just listen to the Word of Truth and not respond to it, for that is the essence of self-deception. So always let his Word become like poetry written and fulfilled by your life! If you listen to the Word and don't live out the message you hear, you become like the person who looks in the mirror of the Word to discover the reflection of his face in the beginning. You perceive how God sees you in the mirror of the Word, but then you go out and forget your divine origin. But those who set their gaze deeply into the perfecting law of liberty are fascinated by and respond to the truth they hear and are strengthened by it—they experience God's blessing in all that they do!

b. The Word of God

We cannot underestimate the power of the Word of God in our transformation process. The word of God is supernatural... Positivity and self help books and podcasts are not enough.

**Hebrews 4:12 NKJV** - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

My tool is not a chainsaw (small decisive tool to get to the root)

God isn't going in to our heart or our garden with a chainsaw, He is going in with the powerful decisive supernatural word to remove those things that are threatening our life and walking in the fullness of our identity as His sons and daughters.

**2 Corinthians 10:5 TPT** - We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God. We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought and (WE) insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One.

WE have to USE IT. We cannot leave the tool in the garage and expect for it to remove the weeds in our lives.

We have to address the roots of issues in our lives. We address it by renewing our minds in the Word, through Worship, through declaring the truth of the word of God. Through surrender to the Holy Spirit and practicing obedience to His word, that is the HANDS ON practical, get your hands dirty kind of work.

**Proverbs 4:20-23** - My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life

## 5. The SECRET INGREDIENT: ABIDING

**John 15:4 TPT** - So you must remain in life-union with me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to mine.

**John 15:5-8 TPT** - "I am the sprouting vine and you're my branches. As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless. If a person is separated from me, he is discarded; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire to be burned. But if you live in life-union with me and if my words live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire and it will be done. When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are my mature disciples who glorify my Father!

Delighting in your spouse and children, receiving and giving the pure love of Jesus and experiencing joy peace and patience, is all available to us. BUT, we have to engage in a process of transformation and connection, abiding with our Father.

6. Gods invites us to partner with Him!

Hear the cadence of His invitation:

**Song of Songs 2:15 TPT** - You must catch the troubling foxes,(or root out those weeds) those sly little foxes that hinder our relationship.[a] For they raid our budding vineyard of love to ruin what I've planted within you. Will you catch them and remove them for me? We will do it together.

God is not sitting up in heaven mocking us at our inability to get those roots out on our own. He is not frustrated that we are weak and at times stumble in our transformation process.

He is invites us into a process to work together hand in hand!