

You Will Be My Witnesses Part 6: A Living Sacrifice Part 2

Romans 12:2 (NASB 2020) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NASB 2020) “Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.”

I. Transformation begins with Christ

Matthew 11:28(NASB 2020) Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Before the mind can be renewed, the soul must first come to Christ. Many people try to change their lives through discipline, rules, or self-effort. But Jesus begins with relationship and rest.

Transformation is not merely behavior modification. It begins with coming to Christ and surrendering the burdens that keep us bound to the world's patterns.

Romans 12:3 (NKJV) For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Leave your pride at the altar!

John 15:5 (ESV) I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Philippians 1:6 (AMP) And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.

II. Not conforming to this world

Romans 12:2 (NASB 2020) And do not be conformed to this world...

1 John 2:15-16 (NKJV) Do not love the world or 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, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

****James 4:4-7 (ESV)** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The progression between these passages is powerful:

Passage	Focus	Warning
Romans 12:2	Mind	Don't be shaped by the world
1 John 2:15	Love	Don't love the world
James 4:4	Loyalty	Friendship with the world opposes God

John 17:14-16 Jesus declares that we “as believers” are in the world but not of the world!

III. Transformed by the renewing of your mind

Romans 12:2 (NASB 2020) ... but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Matthew 11:29 (NASB 2020) “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...”

Illustration: A yoke was a training device used to pair two animals so the younger could learn from the stronger “Walk beside Me and learn My ways.”

As we walk with Christ: He carries the weight, He sets the direction, He teaches us how to live, and that is how the renewing of the mind happens.

The secret to transformation is not trying harder—it is walking closer with Christ. Jesus is essentially saying, "Walk with Me and learn My ways." That is exactly what renewing the mind means in Romans 12:2. As we walk with Christ, our thinking begins to change.

Ephesians 4:23-24 (NLT) Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Colossians 3:10 (TLB) You are living a brand new kind of life that is continually learning more and more of what is right, and trying constantly to be more and more like Christ, who created this new life within you.

You cannot live a transformed life with an unrenewed mind.

IV. Understanding and living out God's will by the Word!

Romans 12:2 (NASB 2020)... so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT) So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. **Don't act thoughtlessly but understand what the Lord wants you to do.**

The only way this happens is through the Word of God and fellowship!

Acts 2:42 (NASB 2020) They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Hebrews 4:12 (NASB 2020) For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (AMP) And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities, Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.