

THINK JESUS

Change Your Mind, Change Your Life

August 20, 2023

Romans 12:2 MSG Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, & quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Renewing the mind is an exciting journey of change. You can change!

But before Paul teaches us to renew our minds, he says...

Romans 12:1 NKJV I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies (*your whole self/life*) a living sacrifice (*life of worship*) holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Transformation begins w/ worship, surrender & submission

2 Corinthians 10:3 NKJV For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments & every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, *bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

STOP SIGN

To capture your rebellious thoughts, & insist that they obey Christ:

1. ***Pay attention*** to how you really think & believe
2. ***Be aware*** of how God wants you to think (*The Word*)
3. ***Focus*** your thoughts on God's thoughts (*The Word*)
4. ***Practice*** the thoughts of God until they are your own (*The Word*)
5. ***Live out*** the thoughts of God in your everyday life (*The Word*)

Romans 8:5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature *think* about (*set their minds on*) sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit *think* about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ Letting your sinful (*flesh*) nature control your *mind* leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your *mind* (*spiritually minded*) leads to life & peace.

Spirit thinking leads to Spirit actions, which leads to Spirit feelings.

Philippians 4:8 NKJV ...whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there's any virtue & if there's anything praiseworthy-**meditate on** (*think on/fix your mind on*) these things.

Proverbs 23:7 NASB For as he thinks within himself (*or thinks in his heart; or reckons in his soul*), so he is.

James 1:21 Get rid of all the filth & evil in your lives, & humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

Hebrews 4:12 The word of God is alive & powerful. It's sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul & spirit, between joint & marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts & desires.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 May the God of peace make you holy in every way, & may your whole spirit & soul & body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

We're talking about soul transformation.

3 John 2 NKJV I pray that you may prosper in all things & be in health, just as your soul prospers. ³ For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came & testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

8 THINGS THAT CONSTITUTE A POOR SOUL:

1. Having a lack of knowledge of the Bible. **Hosea 4:6**
2. Being controlled by the desires of the flesh (can't control your spending habits, sexual lusts, health, emotions) **Romans 8:5**
3. Being weak, indecisive or double-minded. **James 1:8**
4. Fantasizing on negativity & feeling unable to control your thoughts. **2 Corinthians 10:5** (*capture those rebellious thoughts*)
5. Refusing to change, defending past behavior & making excuses for yourself. **Proverbs 9:7-9** (*correct a mocker, he'll hate you*)
6. Spending all your time on natural, earthly, material things. **Colossians 3:2** (*think about the things of heaven, not of earth*)
7. Allowing emotions to control your attitudes & behaviors. **Ephesians 4:22-24** (*stripping off the old man, renew your mind*)
8. Allowing fear, anger, bitterness, gossip or negative thinking to consume you. **2 Timothy 1:7**

8 THINGS THAT CONSTITUTE A PROSPEROUS SOUL:

1. Hungry to learn & change. **Matthew 5:6** (*hunger & thirst for...*)
2. A mind that meditates on God's Word & follows its precepts. **Psalms 1:1-3** (*Blessed is the man who walks not...*)
3. A disciplined mind & will that agree with the Spirit. **Romans 8:6**
4. Focusing on Godly thoughts & attitudes. **Matthew 6:33**
5. Confessing your faults openly & seeking change. **James 5:16** (*confess your sins to each other, & pray that you may be healed*)
6. A mind that is set on & involved w/ the things of heaven & God. **Colossians 3:1-10** (*think about things of heaven, not earth...put on your new nature & be renewed*)
7. Self-control over feelings/emotions **Galatians 5:23** (*spirit*)
8. A pure, positive, happy attitude toward life. **Philippians 4:8** (*think on these things*)