



RENEWING THE MIND - PART 1

In this resource we are going to unpack a number of key truths in relation to our personal transformation. These key truths will define and determine the life we can access and possess in Christ.

These key truths will be:

1. The natural or carnal mind
2. The mind of Christ
3. The renewing of the mind by the Spirit
4. Oneness of mind
5. The mind that knows 'of', not 'about'
6. The mind set on the flesh
7. Taking thoughts captive
8. Being double minded
9. Set your mind on above

Let's start by looking at the natural mind or in other words the carnal mind and how it operates. It is essential to know not one of us is born with the mind of Christ/God, but we are born with the mind of darkness.

Isaiah 55:6-9 Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts. This is how we have all started our lives. Disconnected from our Creator, having a demonic mind-set, which operates and thinks completely opposite to the Father, Son and Spirit. This is the natural or carnal mind and it has no capacity or capability to know and understand the Father or His Truth.

Isaiah was being the mouthpiece of God when he said "For My thoughts are not your thoughts", so these are the words of God and not Isaiah.

Q. If our thoughts are not God's thoughts and vice versa, why is this so serious for us as a people?

Q. How damaging is this to our relationship with Him?

Q. Describe some of the damaging effects of our thinking not being aligned to His thinking?



1 Corinthians 2:14 is a very enlightening verse in relation to the natural man or woman not accepting, or understanding, the things of the Spirit of God, due to trying to comprehend them all through the filter of the flesh or the natural (earth).

1 Corinthians 2:14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

To not accept the things of the Spirit is to reject, deflect, deny, justify or excuse away. This is highly destructive to becoming Christ like and coming into the fullness of our identity and inheritance in Him. We can still be justified by His blood and live like this as His child. This is very much a slave or orphan position, which constantly is in a position of lack and despair.

The natural mind will never, and can never, grasp and come into the true knowledge of God which brings life and understanding, because this knowledge is a spiritual knowledge. The natural mind hears to understand, while the mind of the Spirit hears to receive. They are 2 completely different operating systems. One operates from the Tree of Life while the other operates from the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Hebrews 4:10 is a significant verse in relation to all of this.

Hebrews 4:10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

This is not physical rest but Sabbath Rest. The one who has entered into Sabbath Rest has rested from their ability to try to do everything their own way. It's not just physical works through our own strength we rest from, but it's being set free from everything we do to grasp and understand God and His design, which includes "learning."

The entire reality is a complete work of faith in Him. Jesus said "Come to Me and learn from Me." Paul said to the Ephesians that, "you didn't learn Christ in this way," and we see in John 7:15 the Jews asking "How this man become learned, having never been educated."

Q. What is really standing out for you personally through this second part of this resource?

Q. Are you able to recognise whether you are operating from this carnal/natural mind in your relationship with Him, and how do you know?

ACTION POINT: What action point do we need to take away from tonight?