



RENEWING THE MIND - PART 3

In resource 3 we are going to look at the “renewing of the mind by the Spirit”.

The most important aspect of this is to recognise and understand that when we talk about the renewing of our minds, we are not talking about learning things we do not yet know through our human intellect. We are not talking about applying our minds to the study of God and trying to seek new understanding through our own ability and capacity to know Him.

This way is in fact foolishness to God, and futile, and will only ever have us knowing about God at best or creating our own version of God in our own understanding. We may have fresh informational knowledge about God which is good, but this knowledge will not be living and transformational, enabling and empowering us to live out this knowledge called ‘wisdom’.

The mind acts as a gate. It either allows access or it denies access.

Repentance is the key to this new life in Christ as it allows access to everything within Christ through the renewing of the mind. It is essential we understand here what repentance is, as it brings us into life in Christ.

Repentance: a complete change of attitude, spiritual and moral toward God. To change one’s way of life as a result of a complete change of thought and attitude.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

We can see that Godly repentance leads to the salvation of us as His people. When I say salvation I mean the complete transformation of one’s spirit, soul and body. The mind is obviously included in this transformation. Repentance is the way to life in Christ.

The way the mind gets renewed is through the Holy Spirit revealing, showing, giving, unraveling or unveiling the life that sits in Christ. We don’t work things out through our own toil, but we are shown by the power of the Spirit what is concealed in Jesus Himself.

John 6:27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

The Holy Spirit doesn’t require our help in this. What He requires is a humble and gentle spirit who is willing to learn and be taught by Him, His divine way - revelation. It’s the revelation through the power of



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the Spirit that empowers us to possess all things in Christ, the One who is Eternal life.

Ephesians 4:20-23 But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Romans 12:2 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.

The Holy Spirit is the One who will lead us into all truth and bring to our remembrance everything that is within Christ. This is why we are not to call anyone else Teacher, for He is to be our primary Teacher and the One responsible for bringing us into the truth that makes us free.

As the mind gets renewed through the process we are fully capable of living out this new way in Him.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is the renewing of the mind through the Spirit so essential for a follower of Jesus?
2. What connotations does the word repentance have for you and why?
3. What has been your operating system of attempting to come to know God?
4. What has been the fruit of this operating system of learning?
5. What changes if any do you need to make in this whole area of the renewing of the mind?