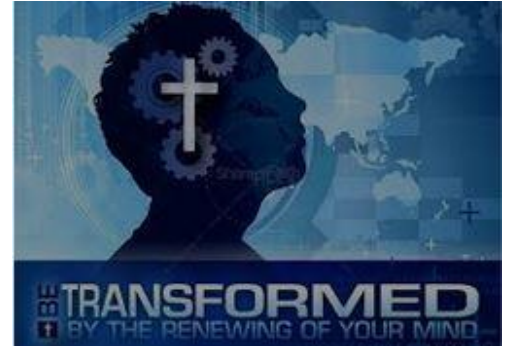


## The Renewing of Your Mind

Married couples celebrating a landmark anniversary, such as their 40<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup>, have spent so much time together that they often respond to the same question the same way as their spouse. They can finish each other's sentences because, over time, they have grown to think alike. What about our relationship with God? Have we spent enough time with God that we think as God thinks?



What does it mean to think as God thinks? The Bible talks about the renewing of our mind. A simple explanation for renewing our mind is to “think as God thinks.” We know that the way God thinks is significantly different than the way our secular world thinks. In Romans 12:2, we read, *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* The verse starts off by telling us to not think or act as the world does. As we know, the world's belief system is very different than God's. The “test and approve” part of the passage from Romans is proof that God's will for our lives is perfect. His will enhances our lives and allows us to be the person God intended us to be.

When Paul established the church in Corinth it had some early problems. Corinth was a bustling commercial, but pagan city. The church was trying to deal with factions within the church and also be a testimony for Jesus Christ in Corinth. Paul reminded the church at Corinth that the world did not know the wisdom of God (see 1 Corinthians 1:25). Paul wrote, *“the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14).* The verse is appropriate today, as the world does not know God's wisdom.

Changing the way you think transforms the mind, making you an entirely new person. The way you think is based on your belief system. Some people only believe parts of the bible and they only obey those parts they agree with. We need to broaden our acceptance of God's Word to include the entire bible. We can only think as God thinks if we accept all of His Word. Rick Warren said (in his Ministry Toolbox) that when you sin you are doing what you think is best for you, rather than what God would want you to do. If you want to change the way you act, you need to first change the way you think. It has been said, “behind every sin is a lie.” We rationalize and convince ourselves that something is OK to do. To avoid the sinful actions, we have to change our thinking. *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he... (Proverbs 23:7).*

How can I be an intentional example of Jesus living through me? It involves the transformation of the mind to think as God thinks. *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things (Philippians 4:8).* By changing the way we think, our behavior will change, also.

Wouldn't it be great if we were on the same page as God so much that we could finish His sentences? We can. Actually, this is a really important point! His Word in the Bible tells us all we need to know. Ask yourself, “What would God want me to do in this situation?” And in your prayer life, ask God what He wants you to do for the people that you pray for. It all starts with renewing our mind and thinking like God.

**Question:** Are you spending enough time in God's Word and prayer that you know what God wants you to do?

**Closing Prayer:** Dear Lord, we seek to know how you wish us to think. If we conscientiously read our Bible and spend time in prayer, your thoughts are known to us. We pray that our thoughts and actions will be your thoughts. Amen.