

TRANSFORMATION AND THE MIND OF GOD

- Romans 12:2 New Living Translation (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, **but let** God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

-We are changed by letting God change the way we think. We must let God change us. God does not force change, we become like Him because we will it. You can look around the world right now and see whole societies of people who are forced to become something. How well is that working out? God is smart; *forcing* someone to become something He wants is a bad idea. We must be able to choose. If we are able to choose, we are free and our choice is authentic. The love we have for God is manifested in our hearts decision.

-The World wants to force you. The world wants to conform you to its image whether you want to or not. The world is like this because Satan is the God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) and it's in his nature to force and push you. He does not ask, he does not care. Satan has one goal in mind, to make you think like him. That's why the world is full of societies who want to force its citizen to be what its "rulers" desire, instead of finding out what its people want.

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

-Our thoughts are not meaningless, they are where everything we see and touch started. Thoughts have substance. Thoughts are the framing of what is to come. Our thought life is a big part of what makes us who we are.

- Psalm 10:4 (NKJV) The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek *God*; *God is in none of his thoughts*.

- A Godless thought life produces a Godless life. A Godless life means you are void of His love, power and peace; you have removed God far from you.

-Switch your thoughts to God's word. Let his word lead you and settle the issues you are facing now.

- Ephesians 5:26 (NKJV) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

-Today many Christians are stuck in tough situations because they have removed God from their thoughts. They are not allowing his word to change the landscape of their minds. They believe in God, are saved and going to heaven when they die but God has no part in their decision making.

-Another issue may be that what they think about God is not correct.

- Psalm 50:21(NKJV) These *things* you have done, and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you; *but* I will rebuke you, and set *them* in order before your eyes.

-We are changed as we pull our thinking up to Gods level; as we think like Him. If we get saved and just keep thinking the way we have always thought we will continue down the same roads we were on before we got saved.

-Lots of people think wrongly about God. People think things about God that are not true but they are so stuck in what they believe. They were taught one way maybe by their parents or a denomination, and they firmly believe it, but is it scriptural? Is this really God? They heard so and so say this so that's what they think. They assume things. We need our minds renewed.

-We need to have a willing heart and immerse ourselves in His word night and day. Then we will become like minded with God. This is what will transform us into another person.

- Meditating Gods thoughts has the power to transform our thinking so we think like Him.

- Luke 8:35 (NKJV) Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and **in his right mind**. And they were afraid.

-How does a person get out of their mind? Thoughts, wrong, perverted, distorted thoughts. What happens if you think on perverted or evil things night and day? You will conform to what you imagine all day.

-When you get in your right mind you get close to Jesus and you have peace. Don't try to change so much on the outside. Renew your mind, get your thoughts in order and you will change.

- Romans 12:2 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW) Don't become like the people of this world. Instead, **change the way you think**. Then you will always be able to determine what God really wants—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

-If anyone is changing, it will be you and I, not God. We come up to His way of thinking; He does not come down to our way. His way is the right way. Our understanding of Him is very limited so we must learn of Him.

- 1 Corinthians 13:9 (NKJV) For we know *in part* and we prophesy in part.
- 1 Corinthians 13:10 (NKJV) But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.
- 1 Corinthians 13:11 (NKJV) When I was a child, I spoke as a child; I understood as a child, *I thought as a child*; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

-We should not just take what we hear and what we think sounds good and build our life on them as truth. We should examine every thought with the word (Eph. 5:26).

- Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV) There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

-There are things that seem right to us but can be deadly. Satan presents us with things that seem right so we receive them but they are actually holding us captive in our minds. Satan has been around a long time, he knows every trick in the book and he waits and is patient (1 Pet. 5:8). He is waiting for us to take the bait; in this case he is waiting for us to take the thought. When we take a thought that is wrong and begin to ponder it and meditate on it, it starts to shape our opinions and helps us make our decisions.

- Proverbs 14:15 (NKJV) The simple believes every word, but the prudent *considers well his steps*.

- Proverbs 14:15 New International Version (NIV) *The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.*

-Don't always believe the first thing you hear. If it rubs you the wrong way stop and evaluate it. Talk to God about it. Don't go off on a tangent and get bent out of shape. Believe the best in people. Don't let the enemy build evil thoughts or judgmental thoughts about others. Remember, we only know in part.

- You can always find something to be upset and grumpy about or instead you can find things to be happy and excited about, it's our choice what thoughts we take and what we think on.

- Proverbs 18:17(NKJV) The first *one* to plead his cause *seems* right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.

-Don't be so quick to believe something bad about someone; it may not be the truth. Don't always be so quick to believe the report on the news; the media is full of "one-sided" reporting.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NKJV) 4 Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, **thinks no evil**;

-Don't be so quick to believe bad things about God; the enemy is crafty and is constantly spreading lies to get you to believe wrongly (John 8:44).

- Proverbs 19:2-3 (NKJV) 2 Also it is not good *for* a soul *to be* without knowledge, and he sins who hastens with *his* feet. 3 The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the LORD.

-Satan is working overtime trying to feed you wrong thoughts especially about God. He will even provoke feelings to back them up.

- Acts 14:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and *poisoned their minds against the brethren.*

Talking about Paul:

- Acts 28:4-6 (NKJV) 4 So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live." 5 But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. 6 However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, *they changed their minds* and said that he was a god.

-How you think determines how you treat others. If we think badly about someone we will treat them that way. We see this all over the place. People are treated differently based on race, gender, financial class, you name it and there is some type of division in our society and in the church, over it. People's minds have been poisoned against one another. We are held responsible for how we think about each other in the Body of Christ. We should think Gods thoughts about and toward one another.

- Proverbs 16:3 (NKJV) *Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.*
- Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
- Proverbs 3:6 (NKJV) In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.