

TRANSFORMATION: WHAT ARE THOUGHTS?

- Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*. 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.
 - 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.

-You change yourself by changing the way you think. So much time, money and energy is spent in this world on all kinds of programs, therapy sessions, and medications by people who are trying to change themselves. God said changing ourselves is done by the renewing of the mind. There are many Christians today who don't even like the way they are. God says "be transformed" not by prayer and fasting or by hanging around the right people, but by "the renewing of the mind".

-Knowing the will of God for your life is connected to renewing the mind. How are we going to know God's will for our lives? Not by asking other believers or by prayer and fasting but by renewing the mind to the word of God. If we learn to tune our thoughts into God's thoughts, we can know and understand His will for us.

-We are not to conform to this world. We are not to try and blend in and be like everyone else. I hear many people say "they just want to be real" or "down to earth" so others won't think they are weird. That's a trap of the enemy. Our job is not to conform, but to be connected to God. We want to pull people out of this world not keep them bound. The truth is people are looking for a way out. We as Christians need to be connected to God so we can help them up and out.

➤ Conform: To fashion alike; fashion to the same pattern

-Don't conform and don't make an apology for not conforming. The world is being led down the wrong path. We are here to connect them to God. Also we are not here to "Westernize" the world but to spread the Gospel. Christians need to separate the word of God from Christian tradition or Christian culture.

- Romans 8:10(NKJV)10 And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

-After we get saved our spirit is alive unto God, but the mind needs to be renewed because it's been learning the ways of the world for so long. It's been connected to thoughts of darkness and death. We have to retrain it. We now need a continuous diet of the word of God, feeding Gods thoughts into us. When a wrong thought shows up we are to reject the wrong way of thinking and embrace Gods way of thinking. If we do this the word tells us we will be changed into another person. We will be more like Christ.

-To be transformed is to be different, to change into another form. God wants us transformed but He will not transform our minds for us. It's our mind and we have to make a decision to go His direction. God will not control you. Satan wants to possess and control, but God will not. God gave us a will and he honors that will. Also, the fact we have a will shows what powerful beings we are. Our lives are in our hands. We can choose to fulfill Gods will for us or not, it's up to us.

-The same word transformed in Romans 12:2 is the same word used in Mark9:2.

- Mark 9:2-3 (NKJV) 2 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was **transfigured** before them. 3 His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

-Spiritually shallow Christians are Christians who know nothing about mind renewal. How spiritual we are depends on how much we meditate on the Word of God and think God's thoughts. In other words, **our spirituality is dependent on how much we have renewed our mind to God's word.**

-One of the biggest problems in the church today is people not taking their thought life seriously. The music, the movies and books we read, everything we consume mentally we need to ask "where did the inspiration for this come from?" What spirit is behind what you are consuming? Are these the enemy's thoughts or God's thoughts? Is this demonically inspired or is this God inspired? Remember one good way to tell, outside of the witness of the Holy Spirit, is it killing, stealing or destroying something in me? Or is it bringing life, joy and peace? Is it building my faith or is it making me more fearful or worried? Satan came to kill steal and destroy, Jesus came that we would have abundant life and peace.

-Satan is taking the world to hell with window-dressing. Let the spirit of God lead you regarding art, movies and music. Don't just consume it because it's popular or because someone said it was good. Watch what you are putting in your mind. Find out where it came from and who or what is behind it.

WHAT IS BEHIND A THOUGHT?

Thoughts are obviously not physical. So what are they? Thoughts come from the spirit, into the mind, then from the mind into this natural world. To think is to form, shape or mold images in your mind. Everything starts with a thought. Everything we use and have first existed as a thought in someone's mind. Cars, chairs, telephones, lamps, you name it; it existed in someone's thoughts first. This means it existed before we could see it with our natural eyes. Where did it exist? It existed in the mind as a thought.

All of creation and nature existed in the mind of God first. The world was a thought of God. Genesis 1 tells us God "said" and it came into being. That means God spoke the world into existence. We have established in prior teachings that words are mere thoughts expressed. When you speak, you are expressing a thought. God spoke and the image of what He had in His mind came to being.

- Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV) By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, *so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*
- Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

-God is The Creator; man is made in His *image* and likeness, thus mankind creates. Mankind creates in the same way. We form thoughts and images in the mind, apply faith and perseverance, and we bring those thoughts and images into this natural world. We think up a chair, we create the chair. We think up a house, we create the house.

- Genesis 11:3-4 (NKJV) 3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."
- Genesis 11:5-6 (AMP) 5 Now the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one [unified] people, and they all have the same language. This is only the beginning of what they will do [in rebellion against Me], *and now no evil thing they imagine they can do will be impossible for them.*
- Genesis 6:5 (KJV) And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that *every imagination of the thoughts of his heart* was only evil continually.

-What we think on, what we give our minds to we will manifest, we will bring forth. Spiritual battles are fought in and over the mind. If Satan can get his image in your mind, he can get you to manifest it in this natural world.

-If God can get His image in you, then he can manifest His will in you and through you. If all we meditate on is death, darkness and sin what do you think we will bring forth?

- Romans 8:5-6 (NKJV) 5 For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds** on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded *is death*, but to be spiritually minded *is life and peace*.

-We must take responsibility for the thoughts we think on. We are the ones that "set" our minds. *The phrase "set their mind" in Romans 8:5 means to think on, ponder, observe; direct the mind to think about.*

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-We are held responsible because it's our mind. Satan may be a tempter, he may help introduce wrong thoughts to us, but we are the ones who make the decision what we think about, ponder and meditate on. Therefore we are held responsible. Our hearts can choose to reject evil thoughts and images or we can receive them and ponder them and let them grow in us.

We all have bad thoughts

-Your mind belongs to you. Think very hard about what you let stay in your thoughts. We may be a very good person, nice to everyone around us, but inside we allow evil thoughts to exist.

- Bad thoughts come to everyone on the planet; it's what we do with the thoughts when they come. Do we let them stay, do we think on them and meditate on them? Or do we get rid of them and kick them out?
- 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (KJV)4 (For the weapons of our warfare are **not carnal**, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 **Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**