



RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

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RENEWING YOUR MIND

It is so important to digest well the things that God shows us. He doesn't want us to simply hear His word and then forget it. He doesn't want us to listen to teaching after teaching, agree that the teachings are right, but then not apply them in our lives. We need to take a hold of the things God shows us and allow them to become part of who we are. To do this, we need to review the things that he has shown us, think on them, meditate on them, pray about them, and open our hearts to let them become part of who we are and not simply information stored in our heads.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)

Is this verse true? What does it mean? If you are born again, God has already made you into a new creation. Your old life has passed away. You have been given a new spirit, a new heart, spiritually you have been renewed and given a new essence to your being. Everything has been made new.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2 KJV)

So if everything has been made new, why does the Bible then speak about being "transformed" by the "renewing of your mind"? It speaks like this because although God has made us new, we have to allow that newness to work itself out from our spirit and heart into our daily lives and actions. Through our decisions and choices we allow that newness to show itself in our lives. This is what being "transformed" means. **The change that God has wrought within us manifests itself outwardly in our lives as we renew our minds.**

At times we struggle with sins. At times we struggle with things we used to struggle with before we were born again. Does that mean we are evil? No. Does that mean that we are hypocrites? No. Does that mean that we have black, wicked hearts? No. Does that mean we are not really new creations? No.

It means that we need to renew our minds in the area in which we are struggling. We need to be transformed in that area, and we will be transformed as we renew our minds. The new life that God has placed within us needs to work out into our thinking and actions in that area. And this happens as we renew our minds.

How are we transformed by the "renewing of our mind"? The choices we make are heavily based upon how we think. The way we act is based upon the way we think. And although God has made us into new creations, we still have to renew our thinking so that it lines up increasingly with the Word of God.

Imagine that you have a brand new car. That car is in absolutely new condition. It is completely ready to be used to drive. There is nothing missing, there is nothing wrong with it. But if you want to go somewhere, you have to get into the driver's seat and drive it. It will not drive itself. And if you want to get to your destination, you have to follow the correct roads. If you take the wrong roads you will not get to your destination. You may have to use a map to help you find the correct roads. If you drive the car, following the correct roads, you will arrive at your destination and the car will have fulfilled its purpose.

At times we struggle with things we used to struggle with before we were born again.

God has made us into new creations. We are like that new car. Everything has been made new and he has given us everything we need to be able to live out his plan for our lives. There is nothing missing. But we have to get into the driver's seat and drive the car. It will not drive itself. We have responsibilities in our walk with God that He cannot fulfill for us. We have to fulfill them. So, we get in the car and choose to drive it. Then we need to use the map of God's word, the map of our daily relationship with him, in order to find the correct roads. Having found out which are the correct roads, we then need to choose to follow those correct roads in order to arrive at the correct destination of God's plans for our lives.

We have responsibilities in our walk with God that He cannot fulfill for us.

Getting in the car and beginning to drive is like presenting ourselves to God and saying "God, I am yours, you have made me new, now what do you want in my life?"

Finding the correct roads as we look at the map is like the renewing of our mind as we listen to God and review and digest the things he shows us.

Choosing to follow those correct roads once we have found them is like choosing to apply God's word in our lives; making the things He shows us a part of who we are.

Arriving at our destination is like living in the center of God's will for our lives.

So if the things God speaks to us are like our road map, you can see why it is so important that we really take to heart the things God shows us. We must not take them lightly. There is so much Christian teaching these days, so much information is available to us, that it is so easy for us to just listen to message after message after message, without really taking to heart the things God is trying to speak to us. Just because you have heard a message does not mean that the things you have heard have become a part of your life. You have to take those things, think on them, meditate on them, pray about them, and act on them. This is how you renew your mind. And as you renew your mind you are transformed more into the image of Christ.

Let's take those verses from Romans and look at them again.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2 KJV)

"*I beseech you therefore, brethren...*" Paul is beseeching us. That means he is asking us to do something really important. He really wants to stress that this is something that he longs for us to do.

"*by the mercies of God...*" We will need God's help and grace and mercies to do this thing he is about to ask us to do. It is not something we can do on our own without the Lord's help.

"*that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice*", We should constantly live with this attitude, "God, I am yours. I belong to you. What do you want in my life? What do you want me to do?" We've talked about having an open heart. Our heart must be open to God, to whatever he wants in our lives. He says "living sacrifice" because we may have to let go of what we want in order to give God what he wants. We may have to sacrifice what we want. But at the same time, it is a "living sacrifice". We are alive, praise God, and he wants us to live life to the full. The only way we can live life to the full is by letting God have his way in our lives...

"*holy, acceptable unto God...*" How are we holy and acceptable to God? We are holy because of Jesus. He is holy and we are in him. Therefore we are holy. **We are acceptable to God because we trust in Jesus and not in our own holiness. But we have to choose to live in that holiness.**

"*which is your reasonable service*" Having constantly an attitude of, "God, my life is yours, what do you want in my life?" is our reasonable service. Living a holy life based on the holiness that we have in Jesus is our reasonable service. God is not asking something strange or cruel. He is asking something very reasonable. It is simply right that we trust Him and obey him.

"*And be not conformed to this world...*" Is this world godly? No. Does this world honor God in how it thinks and acts? No. Then should we follow the patterns and customs of this world? Not if we want to be God's friend. The Bible says that whoever wants to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. (James 4:4). Jesus said that the things that are **highly esteemed** by the world are an abomination to God. (Luke 16:15). So we must not conform ourselves to the way the world thinks.

Instead of thinking and acting like those who don't know Jesus Christ, we must seek to think and act like his friends. We don't want to become enemies of God by conforming ourselves to this world.

"but be ye transformed..." BUT be ye transformed. BUT. In other words, instead of being conformed to the world, we should be changed and transformed; conformed to Jesus Christ, to his way of thinking, to his way of acting, to who he is. Transformed means changed from one thing to another. We have already become new creations, but at times we do not think or act like new creations. So we must be transformed in our thinking and in how we live and act so that we will reflect Jesus Christ. How will this happen?

"by the renewing of your mind..." By changing the way we think. By learning to think like God thinks instead of thinking like the world thinks. Why should we do that?

"that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God..." Why do we need to be transformed by the renewing of our mind? So that our lives will prove, demonstrate and reflect God's will. Is God's will cruel and unreasonable? Is his plan for our lives unkind and wicked? No. Is his plan for our life insensitive and uncaring? No. It is good, and acceptable, and perfect, because He is Love. If we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, if we increasingly think in line with the word of God and act in line with the word of God, we will live in God's perfect and excellent plan for our lives, and our lives will prove to others that he is real and will show others who he really is. Who will prove these things? "That YE may prove" We will prove these things. God cannot do that for us. It is something we have to do.

So, there are things that we have to do. WE have to present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. Constantly. WE have to renew our minds. And so WE will be transformed and WE will prove in our lives what God's good plan is. It seems like we have some responsibility in this whole thing, right?

We need to renew our minds. How will we do that?

Basically by listening to God's word and then faithfully applying it in our lives.

Take the things that have been preached to you, the things that God has shown you. Review them. Think on them. Meditate on them. Turn them over in your mind. Pray that God help you see more of what he is saying to you through them. Ask any questions you have about them. Take the scriptures that God has shown you and learn them. Act on them. **Make them YOURS.**

Treat them like precious seeds that have been sown in your life. You must now water, care for and cultivate them, as they grow and become a part of your life. And so you will be changed.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (James 1:22-24 KJV)

(We encourage you email us and request a FREE copy of the booklet, "The Wonder and the Working of the Word". This booklet deals in depth with the subject of renewing the mind, and is very practical. Please include your name and full mailing address. We will ship free of charge anywhere in the world. Write to us at info@ministeriolafuente.org)

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We desire to serve you in your walk with Christ. Contact us with any questions you may have!

"IF ANYONE THIRST, LET THEM COME TO ME AND DRINK" - JESUS (JOHN 7:37)