

YOU CAN TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE BY RENEWING YOUR MIND DAILY

A Bible Teaching by Jack Hartman

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This month we will study what the Bible teaches about the vital importance of renewing your mind in God's Word every day. (All Scripture references are from *The Amplified Bible*.)

The Greek words "anakinoo" and "aneneoo" are translated in the Bible as the word "renew" meaning to "renovate". Christians who obey God's instructions to renew their mind in His Word each day will find that their thinking is more and more from God's perspective. Many Christians do not even begin to comprehend how much of their thoughts, habit patterns and value system have been influenced by the ways of the world. In this Bible study you will learn how to continually turn more and more away from the world to reprogram your thinking to think like God thinks. "The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are vain (empty and futile--only a breath)." (Psalm 94:11)

Many people who may seem brilliant from a worldly perspective do not even begin to understand God's perspective. Unbelievers and Christians who do not obey God's instructions to renew their mind in His Word each day think thoughts that are "vain and empty." The following words that Jesus Christ spoke to some Pharisees, "...for the sake of your tradition (the rules handed down by your forefathers), you have set aside the Word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect]." (Matthew 15:6)

Some Christians are traditional in their thinking. They do not understand the vital importance of renewing their mind in God's Word each day so that they can turn away from the traditional thinking of the world and turn toward God to think the way that He thinks and make His Word effective in their lives. "...our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him..." (Romans 6:6)

Jesus Christ made it possible for all Christians to learn how to think the way that God thinks. The unrenewed minds that they had before they became

Christians were nailed to the cross with Jesus. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, you have been given a marvelous opportunity to learn to turn away from the unrenewed thinking that you had before you were a Christian to learn how to think more and more like God thinks.

Unbelievers cannot understand the Word of God. However, when Jesus Christ becomes your Savior, you will find that you can understand the various Scriptures. Be like the apostle Paul who said, "...I endorse and delight in the Law of God in my inmost self [with my new nature]". (Romans 7:22)

You are given a supernatural "new nature" deep down inside of yourself when you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. Vast new spiritual horizons that you knew nothing of before are open to you. Be like Paul and "endorse and delight" in the Word of God.

Take full advantage of the opportunity that God has given you to strengthen your mind spiritually. Your Father has given you the opportunity to strengthen your mind spiritually every day of your life. Faithfully obey the advice that the apostle Peter gave to Christians many years ago when he said, "...brace up your minds..." (I Peter 1:13)

A brace is something that strengthens something else and makes it firm by supporting its weight. Your Father wants you to strengthen your mind by constantly renewing your mind in His Word.

Your Father will do wonderful things in your life if you faithfully obey His instructions to renew your mind in His Word each day. "Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]." (Romans 12:2)

You can only turn toward God to the degree that you turn away from preoccupation with anything in the world. The amplification in this verse speaks of the "external, superficial customs" of the world. All unbelievers focus their lives entirely around things of the world. Unfortunately, some

Christians live a religious lifestyle, but they fail to obey God's instructions to renew their minds in His Word each day.

Your Father tells you that we will be "transformed and changed by the entire renewal of our minds".

The Greek word "metamorpho" that is transcribed as transformed in this verse is the same word that was used to describe the transfiguration of Jesus Christ on a mountaintop (see Matthews 17:1-2).

Jesus was transfigured when He was on top of a mountain with two of His disciples. His appearance changed completely.

A metamorphous can and will take place in your mind if you continually turn away from the superficial ways of the world to renew your mind each day in the Word of God. The Word of God tells you that your life will be "transformed" if you faithfully obey His instructions to renew your mind in His word. Your Father has given you the opportunity to learn great new spiritual truths. Take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity. He instructs His children to "Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion; and be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness". (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Your Father instructs you to "strip" yourself from the way you used to think. Verse 22 in the amplification instructs you to "put off and discard your old unrenewed self". Do not live and think the way that you used to think before you became a Christian. Please note that your Father instructs you to "constantly" renew your mind in His Word. The next amplification says that you will "have a fresh mental and spiritual attitude" if you do this.

God gave you the opportunity to partake of His nature. You are told that you will be able to "put on the new nature" and "be created in God's image" if you constantly renew your mind in God's Word.

As this process of renewing your mind in God's Word consistently continues over a period of weeks, months, and years, you will learn more

and more how your Father wants you to live. You will become more and more like God because of the constant renewal of your mind. "...stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices, and have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it". (Colossians 3:9-10)

Once again, you can see that the word "stripped" is used in regard to the way that you used to think and the way that you will think if you consistently renew your mind in God's Word. We are instructed to "clothe ourselves" with our new spiritual selves".

George Mueller was a great Christian leader in the 19th Century. He once said, 'I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God. Friends often say, 'I have so much to do, so many people to see. I can't find time for Scripture study.' Perhaps there are many who have more to do than I."

"For more than half a century I have never known one day when I have not had more business than I could get through. For four years I have had annually about 30,000 letters and most of these have passed through my own hands."

"Then, as a pastor of a church with 12,000 believers, great has been my care. Besides, I have had five immense orphanage, also at my publishing depot, printing and circulating millions of tracks, books, and Bibles, but I have always made it a rule to never begin work until I had a great season with God in His Word. The blessing I have received has been wonderful."

No matter how busy you might be, you cannot be busier than George Mueller was. Do not allow anything to come ahead of your determination to renew your mind every day in God's Word. Many Jews converted to Christianity shortly after Jesus Christ ascended to heaven. These new Christians were very eager to learn everything they could about the ways of God. When the apostle Paul spoke about these new converts, he described them as having "...inclination of mind and eagerness, searching and examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so". (Acts 17:11)

Your Father wants you to have an inquisitive mind. He wants you to “search and examine the Scriptures daily” to learn everything you possibly can about how He wants you to live. You will become more and more like God if you faithfully obey His instructions to constantly renew your mind in His Word. The apostle Paul said that we each will have an “...unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit”. (II Corinthians 3:18)

You will be able to “behold the glory of the Lord” when the veil that previously stopped you from understanding God’s ways is removed. The glory of God is mirrored in His Word. The Word of God is a spiritual “mirror” where you can see yourself more and more as you really are. You can see how God wants you to be. You are able to be “transfigured” into God’s image.

Renewing your mind in the Word of God also helps you to overcome discouragement and fear. “...we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day”. (II Corinthians 4:16)

Have you ever been so discouraged that you were “spiritless”, exhausted and weary because of fear?

This verse speaks about “the outer man progressively decaying and wasting away”. Our bodies decay as we grow older. Do your very best to keep physically fit. However, understand that many of the problems that are caused by aging can be overcome by renewing your mind in the Word of God each day. You are instructed to “progressively renew your inner self day after day”.