

RENEWING YOUR MIND

Your enemy, Satan, will tempt you repeatedly and continually by appealing to your self-oriented feelings and desires. You can resist his onslaughts by cooperating with God's plan to renew your mind. Salvation is the first step in this process, and a committed life of obedience to God's Word will insure that your mind will be continually renewed to increasing Christlikeness (*based on Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 2:11; 11:3; Galatians 5:17; Philippians 2:5-8, 13; Hebrews 5:14; James 1:14-15; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 4:4*).

I. The renewal of your mind with regard to your growth in Christ

A. Renewing your mind is the process by which your thoughts and your will become more and more Christlike. The renewal of your mind is recognized by an increasingly faithful and obedient response to God's Word (*based on Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-32; Colossians 3:10-17*).

B. The consistent renewing of your mind is an integral part of your spiritual development (*Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10*)

II. The renewal of your mind with regard to your personal responsibilities

A. Graciously enabled by divine power (*John 15:4-5; Philippians 2:13*), you are to practice biblical thinking (*II Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 4:8-9; Colossians 3:1-2*).

B. Your obedience to Scripture furthers the development of a Christlike mind (*Hebrews 5:14; James 1:22-25*). Scripture tells us to:

1. Hear the Word (*Romans 10:17*) (e.g., by listening to preaching or teaching from God's Word);
2. Read the Word (*I Timothy 4:13; Revelation 1:3*) (e.g., by having daily devotions);
3. Study the Word (*I Timothy 2:15*) (e.g., by investigating and learning scripturally based principles of living, accurate doctrine, and godly examples to follow);
4. Memorize the Word (*Psalms 119:11*) (e.g., by reviewing your memory verse cards throughout the day); and
5. Meditate on the Word (*Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2*) (e.g., by thinking of the personal application of God's promises and commands to you).

By doing the above, you provide opportunities for the Word of Christ to dwell richly within you (*Colossians 3:16*). Of equal importance, you are to practice the Word especially in known area of needed biblical change. As you continually do this, the spirit of your mind is being renewed to Christlikeness (*based on Colossians 3:8-10; Hebrews 5:14*).

III. The renewal of your mind within the process of your biblical change

	Your old self	Your new self	Renewing your mind
Hope	Through the Cross of Jesus Christ, your debt of sin has been paid (<i>Romans 5:6-9; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:13-14</i>), and your old self has been crucified with Christ (<i>Romans 6:3-7; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3</i>).	Since the old self has been put off and the new self has been put on, you are a totally new person and are empowered by the resurrected life of Jesus Christ to be conformed to His image. (<i>Romans 6:4; 8:11,29; II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:22-24</i>).	As a result, you are directed by God's Spirit (<i>John 14:26; 16:13; Romans 8:14</i>) and are able to understand the things of God (<i>I Corinthians 2:10-14</i>), which are revealed in His Word (<i>II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12</i>).
Change	The sinful and destructive practices of your old self are to be put off (<i>Romans 6:12-13; Ephesians 4:17-22; Colossians 3:5-9; Titus 2:11-12</i>).	Putting on Christlike characteristics (<i>Colossians 3:10-17</i>) leads you to please God and edify others instead of simply living to please yourself (<i>Luke 9:23-24; Romans 12:6, 15:2; II Corinthians 5:14-15; Galatians 5:13-17; Philippians 2:3-4</i>).	As a result, your mind is being continually renewed (<i>Colossians 3:8-10</i>).
Practice	You are continually to consider yourself dead to sin and free from slavery to sin (<i>Romans 6:6-7, 11-12</i>) and self-gratification (<i>I Peter 1:14</i>).	Faithful and diligent obedience to the Lord enables you to overcome trials (<i>James 1:2-4</i>) and failures (<i>Philippians 3:13-14; I John 1:9</i>) and produces Christlike maturity and fruitfulness in your life (<i>II Peter 1:4-11</i>).	As a result, continual obedience to the Word of God protects you from delusion and increase your spiritual discernment and sensitivity to sin (<i>Hebrews 5:14; James 1:22</i>).

III. The renewal of your mind within the process of your biblical change

HOPE

Your old self - Through the Cross of Jesus Christ, your debt of sin has been paid (*Romans 5:6-9; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:13-14*), and your old self has been crucified with Christ (*Romans 6:3-7; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3*).

Your new self - Since the old self has been put off and the new self has been put on, you are a totally new person and are empowered by the resurrected life of Jesus Christ to be conformed to His image. (*Romans 6:4; 8:11,29; II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:22-24*).

Renewing your mind - As a result, you are directed by God's Spirit (*John 14:26; 16:13; Romans 8:14*) and are able to understand the things of God (*I Corinthians 2:10-14*), which are revealed in His Word (*II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12*).

CHANGE

Your Old Self - The sinful and destructive practices of your old self are to be put off (*Romans 6:12-13; Ephesians 4:17-22; Colossians 3:5-9; Titus 2:11-12*).

Your New Self - Putting on Christlike characteristics (*Colossians 3:10-17*) leads you to please God and edify others instead of simply living to please yourself (*Luke 9:23-24; Romans 12:6, 15:2; II Corinthians 5:14-15; Galatians 5:13-17; Philippians 2:3-4*).

Renewing Your Mind - As a result, your mind is being continually renewed (*Colossians 3:8-10*).

PRACTICE

Your Old Self - You are continually to consider yourself dead to sin and free from slavery to sin (*Romans 6:6-7, 11-12*) and self-gratification (*I Peter 1:14*).

Your New Self - Faithful and diligent obedience to the Lord enables you to overcome trials (*James 1:2-4*) and failures (*Philippians 3:13-14; I John 1:9*) and produces Christlike maturity and fruitfulness in your life (*II Peter 1:4-11*).

Renewing Your Mind - As a result, continual obedience to the Word of God protects you from delusion and increase your spiritual discernment and sensitivity to sin (*Hebrews 5:14; James 1:22*).

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES: BIBLICAL STRUCTURE FOR CHANGE

Biblical change is initiated in your life through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. As a new creation in Christ, you are empowered to make biblical changes in your thoughts, words, and actions as you die to self and lovingly serve God and others (*based on Matthew 22:37-39; Luke 9:23; John 3:5-6; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31; II Corinthians 5:15, 17; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 2:3-8, 3:12-14; Titus 3:5*).

Your steps for biblical change

A. The process

Effective and lasting biblical change is a continuing process. You are to obey the commands and guidelines in God's Word for every area of your life (your thoughts, words, and actions) (*Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:21-25;*

II Peter 1:2-4). As you stop (put off) the old continuing pattern of sin and being (put on) the new practice of righteousness and holiness, you are renewed in the spirit of your mind (*Romans 6:11-14, 16-23; 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 3:5-17; II Timothy 2:19*).

B. The "put-offs"

In order to put off the old sinful habits, you must first identify them by examining (judging) your life in light of God's Word (*Matthew 7:1-5; I Corinthians 11:28-31;*

II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12). Once you have specifically identified sins in your life, you must repent of them (*Proverbs 28:13; II Corinthians 7:9-10; Revelation 2:5*), confess them (*I John 1:9*), and immediately put them aside (*Romans 6:12-13a; II Corinthians 10:5; Ephesians 4:25, 29, 31; 5:4; Colossians 3:2, 5-9; II Timothy 2:22a*).

C. The "put-ons"

As you put on righteous deeds (*II Timothy 2:22b; Titus 2:11-12;*) in the power of the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 3:16-21, 5:18*), you will glorify God (*I Corinthians 10:31; I Peter 4:11*), demonstrate your love for Him (*Deuteronomy 10:12; Matthew 22:37; I John 5:3 II John 1:6*), and please Him in all things (*II Corinthians 5:9; Colossians 1:10*).

BIBLICAL CHANGE IS A PROCESS

You may experience conflict within you as you constantly make choices between good and evil, between doing what you want and doing what God wants. You must set your mind to please God instead of yourself (*based on Romans 7:19-25, 8:5-9; II Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 5:17; Philippians 3:12-14; Colossians 3:1-2*)

I. Put-offs and put-ons

- A. In order to change your thoughts, words, and actions while following Christ, you must learn and obey God's Word. His Word lists many transgressions (a transgression is a deliberate crossing over of God's boundary between right and wrong). These are to be put off and Christlike deeds are to be put on (for example: Ephesians 4:22-32; Colossians 3:5-17). When a "put-off" is listed in Scripture, there is an appropriate "put-on" given, often in the same passage. For example:

Put-off		Put-on
Falsehood	Ephesians 4:25	Speaking the truth
Stealing	Ephesians 4:28	Working and giving to those in need
Unwholesome speech	Ephesians 4:29	Edifying speech, according to the need of the moment
Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice	Ephesians 4:31-32	Kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness

B. Sometimes, a “put-on” is given in Scripture without an associated “put-off.” This instruction is provided by God so you can know His will for your life in those areas where you may be ignorant or neglectful of His way. Putting on biblical deeds that you have previously omitted to practice brings glory to God’s name (Matthew 5:16; I Corinthians 10:31-33). For example:

1. Make disciples, baptizing and teaching them (Matthew 28:19-20);
2. Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Christ (Colossians 3:17);
3. Put on the full armor of God and stand firm (Ephesians 6:13-20);
4. Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him (Colossians 1:10); and
5. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).

II. Prayer and action

- A. Prayer is necessary to the obedient Christian life (*Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 4:2; I Thessalonians 5:17*). It is the first action you should take and is essential to experience God’s peace (*Philippians 4:6-7*) and forgiveness in your life (*I John 1:9*).
- B. However, prayer alone will not bring about the fullness of God’s plan for your life. You also need to act specifically and obediently (*Matthew 7:24-27; Philippians 2:12-13, 4:9; James 1:22-25; I John 3:22*) by putting off thoughts, words, and actions that dishonor the name of Christ and, in their place, putting on new ways of thinking, speaking, and acting that reflect the character and image of Christ (*Romans 6:6-7, 12-13, 17-19; 8:29; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:1-5, 4:5-6*).

III. Failure and confession

- A. If you fail, it is possible to please God again by responding biblically. You do this by acknowledging and repenting of your sins to God, which is part of confession (*I John 1:9*). At the time that is biblically appropriate, confess your sin to those against whom you have sinned (*James 5:16*) with a view to reconciliation (*Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18*).

- B. When you confess your sins to God and develop a pattern of recognizing sin and dealing with it God's way, you acknowledge His Lordship (*Psalm 51:1-4; Luke 6:46*). This enables you to have unhindered communication with your Heavenly Father (*Psalm 66:18*) and to have a fruitful prayer life (*1 John 3:22*).

- C. When you consistently confess your sins to others, you encourage harmonious relationships (*Romans 12:18*) and demonstrate the difference that Jesus makes in your life (*Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 4:32-5:1*).

THE EFFECTS OF UNBIBLICAL THOUGHTS, SPEECH, AND ACTIONS

Living for Jesus Christ requires that you direct your thoughts away from self and toward pleasing the Lord (*based on Romans 12:2; II Corinthians 10:5; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:1-2, 5-10*).

Results of focusing on self in your thought life

Hatred (*I John 3:15*)

Jealousy/Envy (*Galatians 5:20-21*)

Fear (*I John 4:18*)

Rebellion (*I Samuel 15:23*)

Pride (*Proverbs 16:18, 29:23*)

Lust (*Matthew 5:28*)

Resentment/Bitterness (*Ephesians 4:31-32*)

Anger (*Proverbs 16:32, 29:11; James 1:19-20*)

Doubt (*James 1:6-8*)

Selfishness (*Philippians 2:3-4*)

Anxiety (*Philippians 4:6-7*)

Deceitfulness (*Proverbs 12:20a, 26:24*)

Lead to and increase:

Matthew 15:18-20; Romans 1:24-32;

I Corinthians 6:9-10, 12;

James 1:14-15

Unbiblical speech and actions

Lying
Hostility
Disputes
Worrying
Impatience
Treachery
Slander
Unkindness
Intolerance
Grumbling
Bragging
Fornication
Adultery
Murder
Homosexuality

May result in:

*Psalm 32:3-4,
38:1-10;
Acts 5:1-11,
esp. v. 5 & 10;
I Corinthians 5:1-6,
esp. v. 5;
11:28-30*

Bodily Damage

Heart malfunction
Colitis
Migraine Headaches
High Blood Pressure
Cramps
Spasms
Ulcers
Insomnia
Stomach Disorders
Arthritis
Kidney Disease
Hypertension
Venereal Diseases
Death

**Bodily Damage also may result from
focusing on self in your thought life**

*Psalm 32:3-4;
I Corinthians 11:28-30;
Galatians 6:7-8;
Colossians 3:25;
I John 5:16*