



Sunday August 27, 2017
Emotional Wholeness And Deliverance Series
Part 7 : Living Daily With A Renewed Mind

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Emotional Wholeness And Deliverance Series
Part 7 : Living Daily With A Renewed Mind

The Renewed Mind

We have previously discussed that as believers we are to renew mind, according to Romans 12:1-2 and Ephesians 4:23.

The renewed mind is

- ✓ Taking on the thoughts and ways of God (Isaiah 55:8-11)
- ✓ Taking on attitudes of Christ (Philippians 2:5)
- ✓ Taking on the knowledge of God who has made me a new person on the inside (Colossians 3:10)



We have to live daily with a renewed mind.

This involves:

- (A) a continuous process of receiving revelation and growing in the knowledge of God
- (B) the conquest of the mind, which we have addressed earlier. We recognize that (i)The Mind A Battlefield, so we must learn to (ii)Take Every Thought Captive, (iii)Renew Your Mind and (iv)Develop A Positive Mindset
- (C) learning to balance reason, a renewed mind, the leading of the Spirit and avoiding the pitfall of presumption

In our message today we will address (A) and (C), and spend more time on (C), as this is an area many believers find challenging.

(A) a continuous process of receiving revelation, growing in the knowledge of God

Colossians 3:10

and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Ephesians 1:17-19

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

Our spirit man has been born again and has become a new man. Yet our spirit needs to grow (increase) in knowledge, grace and strength. This growth in knowledge comes as we receive wisdom and revelation given to us by the Holy Spirit. We are to grow in knowledge about our heavenly Father, about His inheritance given to us, what He has done for us in Christ and the power He has made available to us. As our spirit receives revelation, wisdom and knowledge, this then causes our mind to be renewed, changing our thinking and transforming our lifestyle. This is an ongoing process.

(B) the conquest of the mind

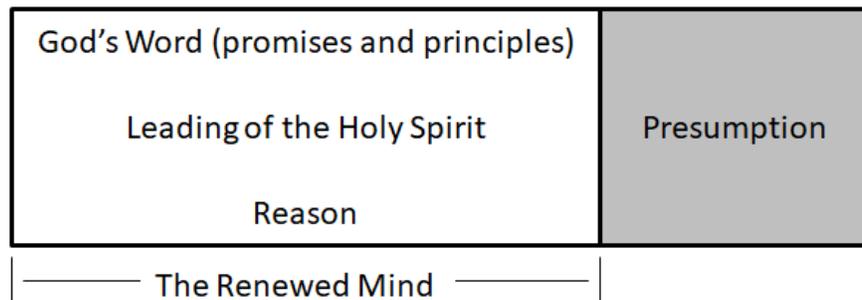
which we have addressed earlier.

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(C) learning to balance reason, a renewed mind, the leading of the Spirit and avoiding the pitfall of presumption

The Believer's Mind



Reason

God designed and gave us our ability to reason, analyze, question, think etc.. We need to continue developing our intellectual capabilities.

Proverbs 13:16

Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool lays open his folly.

Proverbs 19:2

Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he sins who hastens with his feet.

Proverbs 24:6

For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

Ecclesiastes 10:10

If the ax is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength; but wisdom brings success.

God is not opposed to us increasing in knowledge or wisdom.

1 Corinthians 14:20

Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

God wants us to be mature in our minds, our understanding.



Leading of the Holy Spirit

As believers we are led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18). Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be to us, the same as the Lord being with us physically (John 14:16-18). The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth, shows us things in advance, and takes of what the Lord Jesus is speaking and speaks that to us (John 16:13-15).

When the Lord Jesus was on the earth, He instructed people do to things that went against reason. Here are a few examples:

- Fill the water pots with water, now draw out and give to the governor of the feast (John 2)
- Launch out into the deep and throw down your nets for a catch (Luke 5)
- Get the people to sit down, take the five loaves and two fish and start distributing to the crowd of over five thousand people (Matthew 14)
- Go to the sea, throw in your fishing line, and the first fish you catch will have a coin in its mouth, go pay our taxes (Matthew 17)
- Come, He told Peter who wanted to get to Jesus walking on the water, in the middle of a storm (Matthew 14)

None of these instructions would be logical and these would not fit into our 'reason'. Yet knowing fully well that these instructions were beyond reason, but because they had a specific instruction, when acted upon, miracles resulted.

Today, the Holy Spirit is with each believer and speaks similar specific instructions to us to accomplish the purposes of God. The leading of the Holy Spirit comes to us primarily in our spirit, and we then recognize it and process it with our mind (reason) and decide what, how, when, where we are going to act on what the Holy Spirit has instructed us to do.

God's Word (principles and promises)

God has given us His written Word by which we live. These bring to us the promises of God and the principles of God. As we renew our mind, we learn to live by the promises and principles of God's Word. We grow in faith and hence order our lives by the Word of God.

The Renewed Mind

The renewed mind is where we are able to use our reason in alignment and in subjection to God's Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit.



There are times and situations where there is no specific leading from the Holy Spirit and there is no specific Word in Scripture. This is where we walk with our reason which God has given us. Example: for the breakfast you ate today, the clothes you wore, etc. you made a decision using your reason and moved on with your day.

Our reason helps us live in the natural world, while being conscious of God's Word and being yielded to the Holy Spirit. When we leave aside reason, we could get into trouble. For example: God's Word does say that He will give His angels charge over you to protect you in all of your ways. Yet, when crossing the road, or driving your car, you exercise your reason to move with caution so that you do not get hurt or you do not hurt others. Just because we have a promise in the Word we cannot abandon reason.

The renewed mind is able to keep reason in subjection to the Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit, and hence enabling the spirit to exercise faith.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

There are times when we have to simply “trust in the Lord” and not lean on our understanding.

This is how miracles happen and how we flow in the supernatural - when we learn to subject our reason to God and do something God wants us to do, as given in His written Word or according to a specific leading (instruction) of His Holy Spirit.

For example you act on the written Word Luke 6:38 and you give, knowing that God has promised in His Word that it will be given back to you. When you act in faith on God's written Word, His power now goes into operation, and God will cause His Word to be fulfilled in your life.

Then there is the realm of God's specific instructions to us as individuals. Example, Noah had a specific instruction from God to build an ark, even though they had not see rain or flood up until that time. Similarly Abraham had a specific instruction from God to go out to a place that God would show him, and he simply obeyed although at that time he did not have all the details. In both these examples, they chose to put reason aside, and follow God's specific instruction to them.

Hebrews 11:7-8



7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

So, we must use our reason. We must use our reason to correctly apply God's Word and correctly act on the leading of the Holy Spirit. Yet, we must ensure our reason does not interfere or inhibit our acting on God's Word or the leading of the Holy Spirit. The renewed mind is where we are able to use our reason in alignment and in subjection to God's Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Hearing Sermons and Studying Scripture

Today, technology has give us access to a lot of things. Especially a believers, we can easily get to read books and listen to sermons by preachers all across the globe so easily. All of this is readily available. And yet this poses a challenge. How do you know that something you hear is truth or in error? How do you rightly divide what you are hearing (2 Timothy 2:15)? It is not sufficient that that the sermon is being preached by someone you respect, or the message is inspiring, exciting, thrilling, etc. The real question you have to ask is if it is truth.

Acts 17:10-11

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

This seems to be so lacking in today's Church. We must make the effort to personally read and study the Scriptures. This is where the renewed mind is so important. The renewed mind is able to take what is heard, put it in the context of Genesis to Revelation and then examine if what is heard is truth.

Presumption

In our usage of the word "presumption", we are referring to assuming something to be true, when it is not. Presumption, in a believer's life happens in several ways.

Here are a few examples:

(A) When we assume we have heard a specific instruction from God, but we really have not. Example: A person can assume he (she) has heard from God that he has to leave his job relocate to a certain city and just believe that God will provide. If God has not really spoken, but the person is acting out of presumption, the outcome can be painful.



(B) When we misapply a written verse of Scripture assuming it is something God wants us to do. Example: Back in the 1980s, I read about four young men who were missionaries, whom God was using powerfully. They had seen the Gospel reach several villages. Now they had to cross a river to get to the villages on the other side. It was a time the river was in full flow, with strong currents. These four men presumed that they will walk on water as Jesus and Peter did, since any way they were serving God and wanting to get the Gospel to the villages on the other side. These four men stepped into the river, attempting to walk on water..and eventually all four drowned that day.

So what is our safeguard against presumption:

- ✓ Test all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21)
- ✓ Get godly counsel (Proverbs 11:14)
- ✓ Wait for two or three confirmations (2 Corinthians 13:1)
- ✓ Learn to listen in small things, learn from small mistakes, before making huge decisions.

Coming out of presumption and it's consequences

Presumption can lead to delusion and even into error, because of a rejection of truth. We need to recognize that we were wrong, accept responsibility and be willing in humility to work through the changes we need to make to come out of the place of presumption and the actions that we have made based on our presumption.

One very important part of who we are is that we must be supportive and encouraging even when people make mistakes. Even the best amongst us will make mistakes in learning to walk with a renewed mind. So we learn to be patient, supportive and help people come out of mistakes we have made.

In Conclusion

So in learning to live daily with a renewed mind, we must keep growing in all these three areas:

- (A) a continuous process of receiving revelation and growing in the knowledge of God
- (B) the conquest of the mind, where we recognize that (i)The Mind A Battlefield, so we must learn to (ii)Take Every Thought Captive, (iii)Renew Your Mind and (iv)Develop A Positive Mindset
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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



Emotional Wholeness And Deliverance Series Part 7 : Living Daily With A Renewed Mind

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages:

Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10

Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18; John 14:16-18; John 16:13-15

Proverbs 13:16; Proverbs 19:2; Proverbs 24:6

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights.

We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group study.

In the discussions today on learning to live daily with a renewed mind, let us focus on learning to balance reason, God's Word (promises and principles), the leading of the Spirit and avoiding the pitfall of presumption

1, First, work through the definition of each of these and the place each of these have in our lives as believers: Reason, God's Word (promises and principles), the leading of the Holy Spirit and presumption



2, Discuss a few scenarios, where we have to use our reason, and situations where our reason yields to God's Word (promises and principles) and to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

3, What safeguards can we put in place to ensure that we do not fall into the pitfall of presumption? If we do end up there, how do we work our way out of a situation like this? Example: A husband and father has assumed he has heard from God that he has to leave his job relocate to a certain city to plant a church and just believe that God will provide. So without much thought or preparation, "in faith" he has moved his wife, two children and personal belonging to a new city to plant a church. God has not really instructed him to do this, but he presumes he has heard from God. What problems could he find himself in? How can he work his way out?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learning today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential). Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and close by thanking God together.