

FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS

Lesson 4: THINKING LIKE GOD

Purpose: In previous lessons we learned that we are born again and that God has given us a new life. Sometimes it is our own thoughts that hinder us from experience the new life God has for us. Therefore as Christians it is important to learn God's thought and learn to think like God thinks. In this lesson we will learn how our thoughts can help us or hinder us. We will learn it is important to begin to think the same way God thinks. We can think like God thinks by renewing our mind. As we renew our mind with the Word of God we begin to change the way we think, believe, speak, and act. Our thoughts will no longer hinder us but help us to live the new life and cause us to grow and become more successful in every area of life.

Key Scripture:

Romans 12:2 - 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.

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RENEW YOUR MIND?

- A. Romans 12:2 is written to those who are already saved, born again, and have received the new life. God is telling believers that after we are born again we need to renew our minds.
- B. Does not mean memorizing scriptures or the ability to quote scriptures.
- C. To renew our mind means think like God thinks, to think in accordance with God's Word.

II. WHY DO WE NEED TO RENEW OUR MIND?

- A. Wrong thoughts will hinder us in life, cause us to make wrong decisions, and hinder us from walking in God's plan for our life.
- B. **Isaiah 55:8-9** - 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. NKJV"
 - 1. The context of these verses is God telling His people because they rejected God's thoughts they also quit walking in God's ways which caused them to no longer experience the life God had for them. So God is telling them to accept His thoughts which will cause them to enter back into the life that God has for them.
 - 2. Thinking God's thoughts will cause us to go up higher and experience life the God desires for us to do so.

III. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RENEW OUR MIND?

- A. When our mind is renewed our thoughts will be in line with God's word in every situation in life. Whatever happens in your life your thoughts about what happens will be in line with God's Word. This will enable us to make decisions in line with God's Word. When we make decisions in line with God's Word then God gets involved. For Jeremiah 1:12 tells us God watches over His Word to perform it.
 - 1. When someone says something or does something bad to you. You will think love and forgive them. You will think forgive like God forgives me.

2. When someone rejects you or treats you like you are unimportant – You think I am accepted by God Himself, I am very valuable because God paid the highest price for me.
 3. When circumstances in your life make it look like it is impossible to receive God's blessing, impossible to do God's will – the renewed mind will think all things are possible with God, if I believe all things are possible.
 4. Begin to think positive and victorious.
 5. The thoughts and feelings you have about yourself will become good and positive.
 6. Negative thoughts and hurtful emotions will no longer control you.
- B.** Our behavior begins to change supernaturally by the power of God's Word and not by our own strength.
1. **Romans 12:2** - 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. NKJV

IV. HOW TO WE RENEW OUR MIND?

- A. James 1:21** - 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. NKJV
1. By receiving these grafted Word of God.
 2. We receive the implanted word by meditating in scriptures.
- B. Joshua 1:8** - 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
1. The word "*meditate*" in the Bible means to speak softly to yourself while considering the meaning. To mediate in God's a word means to speak God's Word to yourself softly and think about what that Word means to you and your life.
 2. Notice the progression and change that takes place when we meditate in God's Word.
 - a. Word in your mouth (meditate), will become a doer of the Word (transformed), then will make your way prosperous and have good success.
 3. With this lesson you will receive a handout Making Your Redemption A Reality. In this handout there are scriptures for meditation in different areas of life. You can begin meditating in these verses.
 4. When you God's power to help you overcome, change in an area, or to change your thinking and behavior then find scriptures about that area and begin to meditate and confess those scriptures over your life.

CONCLUSION:

As you renew your mind and being to think like God thinks and see His perspective you will begin to change. Your decisions and attitudes will change. You will quit making wrong choices in life that hinder you from experiencing the new life God has for you. You will draw closer to God and understand Him more. Take time every day to meditate in God's Word.

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COMPREHENSIVE TEST: For instructor with answers

1. To renew your mind means to think in line with God's Word and to have God's perspective in every area of life
2. The reason we need to renew our minds is our old thoughts can hinder us from experiencing the life God has for us.
3. How does renewing our mind affect our decisions? We begin to make decisions that are in line with God's Word
4. How do we renew our minds? By meditating in God's Word

Student Name: _____ **ID#** _____ **Date:** _____

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COMPRHENSIVE TEST: For Student

1. To renew your mind means to think in line with God's Word and to have God's perspective in every _____

2. The reason we need to renew our minds is _____

3. How does renewing our mind affect our decisions? _____

4. How do we renew our minds? _____
