

Renewing Our Minds

We have been on a process of divesting ourselves of all religion and all legalism since coming out of the church system. These 2 ideologies have no place in the Kingdom, so we have been deprogramming ourselves. At the same time we've been allowing the King to reprogram us in the things of his Kingdom. He has taught us a great deal and shown us where our system training was out-of-line with Heaven. Part of this process of reprogramming has been changing the way we think.

We not only needed to change the way we think, we needed our mind renewed.¹ We needed to have a new mind – the mind of a son which would be like our Father's mind.

Paul taught that we have the mind of Christ², so our thinking needs to change to align with this.³ But what does it mean to think with 'the mind of Christ'?

We thought it was about living and operating as Kingdom citizens, but it's 'way bigger' than that. A Kingdom mindset is a good start, but it still keeps us in the natural, not the supernatural – and the Kingdom is supernatural.

In my prophetic journalling in August 2018 I was given this correction: "*Focus on what's important. Don't let your mind drift onto things that are irrelevant for me and my Kingdom. Yes, irrelevant. You see, what you do is 'infantile'. You think on those things that are natural, not supernatural. I want you to grow up and be more like me*". This was a 'kick in the pants' that I wasn't expecting. I thought I was making progress in my mental transformation, but obviously I wasn't doing it effectively enough.

You see, this is an example, that it's only when Father speaks to us that we really know 'what's what'. All the Bible study in the world and all the church teaching we've received is inadequate compared to having him speak to our spirit about what he wants us to know.

So, if we already do have the mind of Christ, why do we need our mind renewed? The reason is: We have it, but we don't use it.

What we understand as having 'the mind of Christ' is usually to think like Jesus. Basing that idea on the biblical account in the Gospels is wrong. This only shows us the outcome of his mind, not how his mind worked. We aren't to generate our own behaviour by mimicking him. We are to have his mind. Our mind needs to work like his did.

It's not about thinking on spiritual matters or looking for ways to exercise spiritual gifts. It's far greater than that, because that's us defining our mind and not actually having his mind.

It's not about hearing from the Spirit – as important as that is. **A new mind means we will think differently to every one else, all of the time**. We will end up being a totally transformed person, more in line with being a new species than a human being.

BUT... You have to be dissatisfied with where you are at now before any spiritual changes can begin in your life.

One Way To Change

The standard technique for mind renewal is the church's method: Read the Bible.

The teaching is most likely based on this verse:

Ephesians 5:26 (NKJV) – that He might sanctify⁴ and cleanse⁵ her⁶ with the washing of water by the word

1 – Romans 12:2

2 – 1 Corinthians 2:16

3 – "Do We have the Mind of Christ?" (canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Do-We-Have-the-Mind-of-Christ.pdf)

4 – i.e. 'set apart'

5 – Purified; free from sin.

6 – The *ekklesia*, not a believer.

This is probably backed up with these verses:

John 15:3 (NKJV) – *You are already clean⁷ because of the word which I have spoken to you.*

John 17:17 (NKJV) – *Sanctify⁸ them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

None of these verses refer to renewing our minds. Ephesians 5 is the *rhema*⁹ word of God, John 15:3 is about the teachings Jesus gave his disciples, and John 17:17 is about what God has spoken. None are clear statements that reading the Bible will give you the mind of Christ – they are all about sanctification.

From the evidence, however, it is very clear that churchgoers who read their Bible do change and develop characters that are different to the average person. They become somewhat Christ-like in comparison to what they were like before. But this change could be attributed to the work of the Spirit, more than Bible reading and pulpit teaching. In fact, it is hard to tell the difference between these believers and nice people in our society. In the Kingdom there should not be this close similarity.

Many who read their Bibles don't change. From my time in the church system I can't remember any who had the mind of Christ. This is evident today amongst Christians with such demonstrations as: divorce, Sunday-saints, bad attitudes, Left-wing alignment, socialist/Marxist thinking, hedonism, etc.

Many academic theologians don't have the mind of Christ despite their in-depth study of scripture. This is evident from their teaching, the books they write and their lifestyles. One only has to look at the church's poor record of child sexual abuse to get a glimpse into this.

A ‘Ceiling’ is Reached

If we are taught to use the Bible to renew our mind, and if it's actually doing some renewing, a ceiling will be reached where you will not be able to progress any further. At this point it is usual to consider that a person has arrived at ‘the mind of Christ’. This is wrong and I consider it to be false teaching.

How do I know it's the wrong conclusion? The answer is simple. If a believer is wanting to progress spiritually, they will know that “there's got to be more”. Their spirit tells them this. They become restless and cry out for more.

Mostly, the next step is to try something more theological. Unfortunately, progress will continue to stagnate. Some may even ‘give up the faith’.¹⁰

Confessing you have the mind of Christ won't work. Going to Bible college won't work either.

A Better Way to Change

My experience with Bible mind-changing was that it is extremely limited in its effects. After nearly 30 years of this type of mind manipulating study I ended up legalistic and not a nice person to be around. I was operating without revelation from the Spirit and so my progress was stunted.

Following a number of spiritual revelations of realities I needed to operate under I began my process of rapid mind-changing. What I discovered was changing from the inside-out. By allowing the Spirit to change me on the inside, in my heart and mind, I was able to exhibit commensurate changes on the outside. My mind was being changed, but the most important changes were in my heart where my attitudes were located¹¹.

To achieve success in this you must surrender yourself to the Lord and ask him to change you on the inside. This is a continual process, not a once-off event. Every time you recognise that your mind is not thinking like his, or your actions produced by your subconscious mind are out of alignment, you move into a reaffirmation of your desire to change. This is part of the repentant lifestyle where you repent

7 – Purified; free from sin.

8 – i.e. ‘set apart’

9 – The active word from the Spirit to a person’s spirit

10 – 1 Timothy 6:20-21

11 – Matthew 12:34; 15:18; Luke 6:45

(change your mind by turning to his way of thinking)¹², ask for forgiveness, and importantly, you consciously open yourself up to him and ask him to change you on the inside.

It really works. You will see the changes over a period of time and you'll need to do less repenting as a consequence.

So, a better way to have your mind renewed, so that it becomes more ‘the mind of Christ’, is to allow him to put his mind in us by changing us, inside-out.

An Even Better Way to Change

Ask him to give you his mind. That's pretty straight forward. Why not think like the King?

If we have his mind and we don't use it, this initiative on your part will allow him to make the changes because you give him permission. Remember, we have autonomous free will and he will never override it. He's always looking for us to sidle-up to him and make ourselves available for him to work on us and through us.

Here's how this method goes. Every morning, ask him to supply there items for your day:

1. Heavenly wisdom, knowledge understanding and discernment – This allows you to think like him because he gives you his ways of thinking in each situation.
2. His counsel and strategies – This allows you to operate in alignment with him.
3. Teaching, inspiration, downloads and prophetic insight – This allows your mind to be retrained so you have the right foundational knowledge. Without it you will be ‘at odds’ with the instructions he gives you.

[continued in “Transforming Our Minds”¹³]

Check out this podcast: “Submitting To The Way God Thinks” (Graham Cooke)
soundcloud.com/grahamcookebbh/submitting-to-the-way-god-thinks

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12 – Repentance is not feeling sorry. In the Greek it means to change your mind’s direction. Literally, it’s a commitment to stop thinking naturally and a shift to thinking like the King instead.

13 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Transforming-Our-Minds.pdf