

(Author Unknown)

Renewing Our Minds

*“And do not be conformed to this world,
But be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”*
Romans 12:2

Creating an atmosphere that draws the Divine healing power of heaven to earth begins with the renewing of our minds. Our thoughts and beliefs must be rooted and grounded in the truth of the Word of God in order to effectively establish an environment conducive to healing. So often the greatest hindrance preventing us from receiving healing in our own lives or the one's we pray for, is our own thoughts and beliefs. Because of our lack of success and positive experience in healing, we have, by default, come to believe in a gospel devoid of power. And, as a result, we ascribe to theologies that are not biblically based, and consequently produce passivity and complacency in the average believer when it comes to praying for and healing the sick.

Before I renewed my mind according to the Word of God, I would justify my powerlessness with rationalizations that were simply not based on the truth of God's Word. I would make reasonable explanations; like, “Well, it must not be God's will to heal this person,” or “This sickness must be their ‘cross to bear’ or their ‘thorn in the flesh,’” or, how about this one, “It must not be God's timing.” I had plenty of commentaries on why someone did not get healed. The problem was my interpretations were always based on my experience, or the lack thereof, rather than the Word of God.

Jesus Christ said, **“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** (John 8:32) Once we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we then begin the ensuing process of sanctification and the renewing our minds according to the Word of God, thus enabling us to know the truth. Paul instructed us in Romans 12:2, **“not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”** We will only come to know God's perfect will for health and healing as we renew our minds. In other words, when our thoughts begin to align themselves with God's Word, and we reeducate our minds to think in accordance with who and what the Bible says we are, will we prove, what the perfect will of God is for our health. It is ‘knowing the truth’ that sets us free from sin, and likewise, from sickness and disease.

One of the greatest temptations for a believer is that of believing the fact of their experience, rather than the truth of the God's Word. For example in Psalm 103:3, David says: **“And forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases...”** For most of us, it is relatively easy to believe that He forgives ALL of our sins. But do we actually believe that He heals ALL of our diseases?

The life of believer's, after salvation, is a matter of renewing our minds so that we can receive what already belongs to us; our inheritance in Christ Jesus. The plan of the enemy, since the beginning, has been to keep a child of God ignorant about who they have become and their rights' as a believer. This is one of the devil's greatest strategies for keeping believer's in bondage, especially in the area of healing. Many Christians fail to receive healing in their bodies because they have never really understood, or believed, that it legitimately belongs to them as a covenant child of God.

When Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation during his term as President of the United States in order to set free American slaves, many slaves remained in bondage because no one told them about their freedom. Likewise, without the renewing of our minds according to the Word of God, the enemy can keep us in bondage to sickness and disease with his lies. As a born-again child of God, we can love Jesus with all of our heart, walk in His ways, and yet still be in bondage to sickness because of a lack of knowledge and understanding. Just like the slaves who continued in bondage because they had not heard the truth, so we are held in bondage through deception. But, we can be set free through appropriation of the truth – by faith.

The process of renewing our minds must be intentional; it is not automatic. In order to receive all that belongs to us through Christ Jesus, we must actively and diligently pursue the renewing of our minds. We must fill our minds with scripture continually, until the truths therein become our natural way of thinking. The *New Living Translation* of the Bible says in Romans 12:2, **“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”** As we earnestly and deliberately change the way we think in accordance to God's Word, we are transformed – body, soul and spirit, until we become a new creation, proving what God's will is for His children.

Your world is ultimately governed by your thoughts. This is why renewing your mind is a key of primary importance in creating an atmosphere of healing. You become what you habitually think, and subsequently believe. Proverbs 23:7 tells us, **“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”** In other words, what you believe in your heart is what you will conceive in your life. This is not the power of ‘positive thinking’; this is spiritual law. What you are outwardly is, in part, a replication of what your mind focuses on repeatedly.

Thought initiates action, and action is always preceded by a thought. You always act out of your beliefs, and your individual thoughts are the foundation of your belief system. Your thoughts must be aligned with the Word of God, or your belief system will be faulty. You see, your belief system is made up of your past experience and the repetition of your thoughts. Lamenting, Job 3:25 says, **“For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me.”** Positive or negative, your thoughts are creative.

In order to create a positive atmosphere for healing in our lives and the lives of the ones we pray for, we must align our thoughts with God’s thoughts. There is an ongoing and aggressive war being waged for the thoughts of our minds. The battle for our healing always begins in our minds. When we are sick and our bodies are being attacked with disease, the devil is ever present, working persistently to influence us to think according to a mindset that contradicts the Word of God. The devil wants, more than anything, for us to agree with his lies, instead of God’s truth. He knows that if he can distract us with his lies and get us to agree with them, he can keep us in bondage to sickness and disease. Both God’s Word and the enemies’ lies are empowered through our agreement with them. Every time we come into agreement with the devil’s lies – we empower him and enable him to establish a stronghold in our lives. Likewise, we empower God’s Word in our lives by aggressively pursuing the truth and coming into agreement with the truth in our hearts and minds. Galatians 4:7 tells us, **“For whatsoever a man sows, that will he also reap.”**

There is a direct connection between our thoughts and our health. Science has proven how our thoughts produce a physiologic response in our bodies. There is an entire field of study called “psychoneuroimmunology”. This is simply the study of the interaction of our thoughts with our central nervous system, endocrine system and immune system. This field of study confirms that our thought life will ultimately manifest in our physical body.

Thoughts begin with words and those words create pictures or images in your mind. The language of your mind is symbols, words and images. Your minds' job is to create whatever image you have given it. This is why it is crucial to renew your mind. Remember, you reap what you sow. You become that which you behold.

The moment the doctor gives you a negative medical diagnosis that is contrary to the Word of God, your mind automatically initiates the process of creating an image of that very thing in your imagination. This is why Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 10:5 to, **“cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.”** The devil will strategically attempt to exalt the medical diagnosis above the knowledge of God. Yes, the medical diagnosis is fact, but the Word of God is truth – which is higher than fact. Truth supersedes fact. By way of faith and authority, the truth of God's Word must supplant the fact of the medical diagnosis. Satan's only power is deception. He doesn't have power or authority, except what we give him when we yield to his lies. A renewed mind is so saturated with scripture that when you hear a report that contradicts the Word of God, your mind automatically focuses on the truth of God's Word instead of the negative report.

Colossians 3:2 instructs us to, **“set our minds on things above, not on things on the earth.”** The renewing of our minds takes place as we set our minds on the things of heaven – where there is no sickness and disease. The renewed mind is able to demonstrate the reality of heaven on earth. Jesus instructed us to pray, **“Your kingdom come, Your will be done – on earth as it is in heaven.”** (Matthew 6:10) The renewed mind becomes the point of contact or conduit through which God's power is able to manifest. The renewed mind understands that in the realm of the spirit, healing is already manifest, and is then able to draw it into this reality by seeing it, believing it, and calling it forth as if it has already happened, and acting on those promises.

The renewing of our minds is an ongoing process that takes place as we purposefully and deliberately saturate our minds daily with the truth of God's Word. When we are sick and being attacked with disease, most of us spend more time focusing on the problem, rather than the solution. The key is to keep our mind and attention focused on the promise and truth of God's Word, rather than our pain and disease.

Proverbs 4:20-22 instructs us:

***“My son, give attention to my words;
Incline you ear to my sayings.
Do not let them depart from your eyes;
Keep them in the midst of your heart;
For they are life to those who find them,
And health to all their flesh.”***

Meditating on scripture and speaking the Word of God is indispensable when we are waiting for our healing to be made manifest in our bodies. On a day to day, moment to moment basis, we need to be diligent to take every thought captive to be certain that it lines up with the Word of God. As we fill our mind with the Word of God, an image of health and wholeness will be created in our mind. And eventually, with perseverance, our bodies come into agreement with the Word of God. We will have proved the will of God; being transformed into health and wholeness, by the renewing of our mind!