

Obtaining The Renewed Mind of Christ

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Matt.22:37

For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts. Mk. 7:21

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus. Phil. 2:5

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles...Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. Ro.1:18-28

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace, the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Ro. 8:5-8

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Ro. 12:2

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Eph. 4:18

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Eph. 4:22-24

But we have the mind of Christ. 1Co. 2:10-16

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Cor. 10:3-5

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put into practice. Phil. 4:8-9

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Col.3:1-2

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Pet.1:13

All the believers were one in heart and mind. Acts 4:32

Introduction:

Jesus Christ has a mind with very clear and truth-filled thoughts. He is The Word. What He speaks becomes reality! We can actually obtain the mind of Christ. In fact, the only way we can become like Christ is to think like Him. His mind can become our mind. Christ's thoughts can become ours as well. This process of obtaining the renewed mind of Christ will save us and many others.

Whatever controls our mind, controls us. What our minds think and believe affects our emotions. The combination of thoughts and feelings determines how we act, our relationships, and the entire quality of our

lives. Toxic thinking can literally kill us. Obtaining the renewed mind of Christ, from Christ, is the doorway to love, life, wholeness, and kingdom destiny.

The starting point for the mind is the heart. Jesus teaches, “What comes out of a man is what makes him unclean. For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean.” (Mark 7:20) The mind will justify what the heart desires. When our deepest heart motive is to glorify God, to worship Him in every area of life, then we will make sure that we only think His thoughts. If we are the center of our universe, the god of our own lives, then our mind will collect thoughts that get us what we want. When our own pleasure is the focus, then our internal thought process will reinforce our perversion.

Pure hearts plus a right mind is the internal operating system of a follower of Christ. A darkened heart with a distorted mind will result in the justification of all forms of wickedness.

The Power of Thoughts:

Our minds are a battlefield. Jesus is attempting to liberate us by renewing our minds, taking back ground that has been captured by Satan – a liar and deceiver.

“Toxic thoughts are like poison, but the good news is, you can break the cycle of toxic thinking. You can reverse the affects of toxic thoughts. And once that cycle of toxic thinking has been broken, your thoughts can actually start to improve every area of your life – your relationships, your health and even your success. A thought may seem harmless, but if it becomes toxic, even just a thought can become physically, emotionally or spiritually dangerous. Thoughts are measurable and occupy mental ‘real estate.’ Thoughts are active; they grow and change. Thoughts influence every decision, word, action and physical reaction we make. Every time you have a thought, it is actively changing your brain and your body – for better or for worse. There are twelve areas of toxic thoughts – a disruptive crew I call the ‘Dirty Dozen’ – which can be as harmful as poison in our minds and our bodies. Toxic thoughts don’t just creep into our minds as a result of abuse or an especially horrific trauma. Toxic thoughts affect people in all stages of life, in every part of the world, every day. Even something as small as a minor irritation can become toxic, and these thoughts need to be swept away.” “The result of toxic thinking translates into stress in your body, and this type of stress is far more than just fleeting emotion. Stress is a global term for the extreme strain on your body’s systems as a result of toxic thinking. It harms the body and the mind in a multitude of ways from patchy memory to severe mental health, immune system problems, heart problems and digestive problems. No system of the body is spared when stress is running rampant. A massive body of research collectively shows that up to 80% of physical, emotional and mental health issues today could be a direct result of our thought lives. But there is hope. You can break the cycle of toxic thinking and start to build healthy patterns that bring peace to a stormy thought life.” Dr. Caroline Leaf, “Who Switched Off My Brain?”

What you think and how you feel will determine what you become and how you live. Thoughts and emotions are either positive or negative. They are life-giving or toxic. What you think and how you feel, can literally kill you. Toxic thoughts are not harmless, they can be physically, emotionally, or spiritually dangerous.

As a person thinks, so they are... Proverbs 23:7 KJV

No negative thought should ever be allowed to control you. Toxic thoughts have the capacity to destroy your life. The positive good news of the gospel, the renewed mind of Christ, empowers us to love and obey Him, living fully alive in Christ.

"I can't afford to have thoughts in my head about me that God doesn't have in His. It's impossible to be consistently effective in fulfilling His purposes unless I am continually training my mind to think of myself according to what God says about me." (p98) "Strengthen Yourself In The Lord" by Bill Johnson

Obtaining The Renewed Mind of Christ:

1. Become extremely proactive in the area of Truth and obtaining the mind of Christ. Become aggressively committed to only thinking Christ's thoughts. This is a matter of life and death.
2. Cultivate the daily discipline of filling your mind with the Word of God. Utilize your sanctified imagination through the Word to reshape your internal "script". Set your mind on the things that are above! Col. 3:1-4 Part of having an intimate relationship with Jesus is knowing His heart and mind, and asking the Holy Spirit to transfer them into you.
3. Become self-aware. Categorize your thoughts into two basic areas.
 - a. Christ's positive thoughts. These come to us through His Word and Spirit.
 - b. Satan's negative thoughts. Satan is a "father of lies" who uses deception and distortion as the primary weapons to kill, rob, and destroy. Jn. 8:44 Satan bombards your mind (and those around you) with a cleverly devised pattern of suspicions, doubts, fears, and more.
4. When the thoughts are negative, quickly turn to The Word, The Truth – Jesus Christ. On the basis of the Truth, cast out the negative thoughts. Confront them and tell them to go...in the mighty name of Jesus.
5. Demolish strongholds. A stronghold is a collection of lies, usually formed through pain, that work together to produce hopelessness, fear, unbelief, isolation – which reduces our desire and ability to love and advance Christ's kingdom. Demolishing a stronghold requires the systematic dismantling of lies and replacing them with Truth and Love. Inner healing and deliverance can help that process of liberation.
6. If there is a negative memory, ask Jesus to show you where He was during that event or circumstance. Ask Jesus to redeem that past memory or event, by using what the devil meant for evil and turning it to good. Be sure to receive and give forgiveness.
7. Cultivate faith by absorbing and believing God's Word (Matt.8:13) and by gazing on Christ (Heb. 12:2).
8. Cultivate your ability to hear God's voice. Grow in the prophetic. Ask God for dreams and visions that come from Him. Get into a healthy church that values all spiritual gifts, including the revelatory gifts like prophecy, word of knowledge, etc. A steady stream of God's loving and positive truth, with sanctified pictures and stories, literally reshapes the neurological pathways in the brain. Renewing of the mind is physiological as well as psychological and affects the whole person. Evaluate everything you "see and hear" through the Word and your church family. (Phil. 4:8; Acts 1:17-21; Eph. 3:20; 1 Co.14:1-; 1 Cor. 2:10-16)
9. Obey, act upon, what God says to you through His Word and Spirit. New actions strengthen the mind renewing process.

Recommended Reading: "Who Switched Off My Brain" by Caroline Leaf; "Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyer; "Truth Talk" by William Backus & Marie Chapian; "How To Stop The Pain" by James Richards