

# RENEWING THE MIND

## I. Representative Biblical references

### A. Attitudes of mind that need to be renewed

- Rom. 1:28 - "a depraved mind, to do things which are not proper"  
Rom. 8:5,7 - "mind set on the flesh" \*  
Rom. 12:16 - "haughty in mind" \*  
II Cor. 4:4 - "blinded the minds of unbelieving"  
II Cor. 11:3 - "minds led astray from simplicity and purity to Christ" \*  
Eph. 2:3 - "the desires of the flesh and of the mind"  
Eph. 4:17 - "the futility of their mind" \*  
Phil. 3:19 - "set their minds on earthly things" \*  
Col. 1:21 - "alienated and hostile in mind"  
Col. 2:18 - "inflated without cause by a fleshly mind" \*  
Titus 1:15 - "their mind and their conscience are defiled" \*

### B. Calls for renewal

- Rom. 12:2 - "be transformed by the renewing of your mind" \*  
II Cor. 4:16 - "our inner man is being renewed day by day" \*  
Eph. 4:23 - "be renewed in the spirit of your mind" \*  
Col. 3:10 - "the new man is being renewed to a true knowledge..." \*  
Titus 3:5 - "renewing by the Holy Spirit"

### C. Attitudes of a renewed mind

- Isa. 26:3 - "the steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace"  
Jere. 17:10 - "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind"  
Jere. 20:12 - "The Lord who seest the mind and the heart"  
Matt. 22:37 - "Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength" \*  
Rom. 14:5 - "let each man be fully convinced in his own mind" \*  
I Cor. 2:16 - "we have the mind of Christ"  
Phil. 2:5 - "have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus" \*  
Phil. 4:8 - "whatever is true, right, pure...let your mind dwell on these..." \*  
Col. 3:2 - "set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" \*  
Heb. 8:10; 10:16 - "I will put my laws into their minds"  
I Pet. 1:13 - "gird your minds for action" \*  
Rev. 2:23 - "I am He who searches the minds and hearts"

## II. Why does the mind need to be renewed?

- A. The mind has been programmed with natural "established attitudes"
  - 1. These are the beliefs, thoughts, ideas, opinions, convictions, prejudices that we have concerning ourselves, others, objects, activities, God, etc.
  - 2. How were these formed?
    - a. recommendation
      - (1) of parents
      - (2) of educational system
      - (3) of society (books, television, movies, etc.)
      - (4) of religious training
    - b. reflection
      - (1) personal observation
      - (2) personal experience
      - (3) personal compromise
  - 3. These "established attitudes" permeated with fleshly "personal interest" of selfishness and sinfulness.
    - a. Act: personal aspiration, gratification, reputation
    - b. React: fight, fright, flight
- B. If there was a mental-video device that could record all the thoughts that go through your mind, would you want to play it back for everyone?
  - 1. God knows our every thought
    - Jere. 17:10 - "I, the Lord, search the heart; I test the mind"
    - Jere. 20:12 - "The Lord seest the mind and the heart"
    - Rev. 2:23 - "I am He who searches the minds and hearts"
  - 2. Does this not reveal the necessity of renewing the mind?
- C. The mind needs to be renewed with Godly "established attitudes"
  - 1. Initial and continual renewal of the mind
    - a. Initial renewal - regenerative renewal
      - Titus 3:5 - "regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit"
      - I Cor. 2:16 - "you have the mind of Christ"
      - Heb. 8:10; 10:16 - "I will put my laws in their hearts"
    - b. Continual renewal - sanctifying renewal
      - Phil. 2:5 - "Have this mind in you which was in Christ"
      - Phil. 4:8 - "whatever is true, right, pure...let minds dwell"
      - Col. 3:2 - "set your minds on things above"
  - 2. The thoughts and attitudes of the mind serve as the conduits which allow for the mobilization of Godly behavior by divine energizing.
    - Prov. 23:7 - "As a man thinks in his soul, so is he (in behavior)"

I Pet. 1:13 - "gird your minds for action"

D. The combination of our "established attitudes" develop into a "mind-set"

1. Mind-set about ourselves
  - a. false sense of identity
  - b. external orientation - "how do I look?"
  - c. guilt - attitudes of worthlessness, inferiority
2. Mind-set about other people
  - a. people pleasing - self-conscious
  - b. vain imaginations - fears, phobias
  - c. attitudes of anger, impatience, hate, bitterness, resentment, revenge, suspicion, criticism, jealousy, unforgiveness, blame, depression, co-dependency
3. Mind-set about things
  - a. materialism - "what am I going to buy next?"
  - b. love things - use people
  - c. addictions to substances, objects, etc.
4. Mind-set about ideas
  - a. quest for knowledge
  - b. desire to be correct, accurate, right
5. Mind-set about situations
  - a. what might happen; the hypothetical - worry
  - b. panic about inability to cope
6. Mind-set about God
  - a. irrelevant, archaic, out-moded, unnecessary
  - b. external, peripheral safety net; mystical, magical

### III. How can the mind be renewed to develop Godly "established attitudes"?

A. Established attitudes re-formed to coincide with God's attitudes

1. Consistent with His character - purity, righteousness, love, joy
2. "Made new again"
  - a. Greek *anakainoo*: *ana*=again; *kainos*=new
  - b. Greek *ananeoo*: *ana*=again; *neos*=new
3. In accord with the
  - a. newness of life in Jesus Christ - Rom. 6:4
  - b. newness of the Spirit - Rom. 7:6
  - c. new covenant - Heb. 8:8,13
  - d. new and living way - Heb. 10:20
  - e. new creature - II Cor. 5:17

f. new man - Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10

B. Basis of Godly "established attitudes" is God's revelation of Himself

1. Natural revelation

Ps. 19:1,2 - "the heavens declare the glory of God..."

Rom. 1:20 - "His attributes have been seen...through what he made"

2. Incarnational revelation

Lk. 10:22 - "the Son will reveal Him"

Jn. 1:18 - "He has explained Him"

3. Biblical revelation

II Tim. 3:16 - "all Scripture is inspired by God"

Not just Bible knowledge of Bible data or trivia

4. Personal revelation

Phil. 3:15 - "God will reveal it to you"

Rom. 14:5 - "let each man be fully convinced in his own mind"

C. Requires personal discipline to renew Godly established attitudes.

I Tim. 4:7 - "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness"

1. Undisciplined minds and thinking retain natural attitudes

2. This is not the self-discipline of self-effort

3. We must discipline (exercise) our minds and thoughts to allow for Godly action mobilized through Godly established attitudes

D. A "mind-set" settled on God and His activity.

1. A "steadfast mind" set on the things of God

Prov. 16:3 - "your thoughts shall be established"

Isa. 26:3 - "the steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace"

a. Not an idle mind - daydreaming, procrastinating, wasting time, fantasizing

b. Mind set on God's character and His ways

Phil. 4:8 - "whatever is true, right, pure...let your mind dwell on these..."

Col. 3:2 - "set your mind on things above..."

2. A "mind-set" that spontaneously thinks of God and His activity

a. "Yes, Lord"

(1) temptation

(2) worship

b. Joy - Phil. 4:4; I Thess. 5:16

c. Laughter - Prov. 15:13; 17:22

d. Song in your heart - Eph. 5:19

e. Love for others - Rom. 5:5; Jn. 13:34

E. Practical necessity of "renewing of mind" for Godly behavior

1. Change in form of thinking and behavior (transformation) comes as an indirect result of renewal of mind - Rom. 12:2
2. Cannot reverse: External nonconformity does not lead to behavioral transformation -  
Col. 2:20-23
3. Based on spiritual regeneration and becoming a "new man" in Christ, the Christian has the indwelling spiritual sufficiency to engage in the renewing of the mind that allows for divinely empowered Christian behavior –  
Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10