

# CHANGING YOUR LIFE BY CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK

## by Abri Brancken, 18 Feb 2018

### INTRODUCTION

Thoughts often lead to action. When your thinking is wrong, your decisions in life will be wrong, but, if you fill yourself with God's Truth then your actions will change seeing that you begin to look at life from God's perspective. The enemy wants to control your mind in order to control your life. Whoever directs our minds is ultimately going to direct our life. If there is no "mind" change, then there will never be any "life" change either. My mind is the place of my intellect, reasoning, and intentions.

As Christians, we are called by God to put off our own negative and corrupt thinking. In order to live the life God destined us to live, we must begin to think the way He does.

### **Romans 12:1-2**

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

You cannot approve what God's will is unless our minds are renewed. Our goal is transformation.

This chapter of Romans has more commands in it than any other chapter of the New Testament. It is a chapter of action! Paul's thesis is: Your belief should impact your behavior. Presentable bodies come from changed minds because the mind controls the body.

### MEANING OF CONFORMED

The term "conformed" in the Greek literally means to be molded or stamped according to a pattern. If you don't actively and intentionally resist this age, you will be conformed. As the Phillips translation reads: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold." Paul's use of "world" is not a reference to planet earth, but rather to the world system (lit. aion = "age")

How much television do you watch in the course of a week? How many movies do you watch in the course of a year? What type of music do you listen to? What magazines, books, and websites do you read? How much time are you devoting to social networking? Who are your friends? What type of influence do they have on you? What are your hobbies? How do you spend your discretionary time?

### MEANING OF TRANSFORMED

The term "transformed" is the Greek word metamorphoo, which forms the root for the English word "metamorphosis." When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, we speak of it as a metamorphosis.

We find this word used 3 times in the Greek New Testament: Rom 12:2; Mark 9:2; 2 Cor 3:18.

There are three critical observations related to the verb metamorphoo:

1. Paul uses the present tense: this is not an “on again, off again” transformation, but a continuous one.
2. The catalyst in the transformation is God.
3. The verb is imperative, indicating that we do indeed have a responsibility. The Spirit “changes” us and enables us to offer ourselves completely to God. This takes place in the mind, which is renewed or changed (lit. “made new again and again”) by the Holy Spirit.

## **THE TRANSFIGURATION**

There is one other place where the world transformation is used.

### **Mark 9:2-13, (NKJV)**

*Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.*

The word transfigured is the same as Romans 12:2, be transformed by the renewing of the mind. Transformation is very important. It is more than just keeping a positive list rather than a negative list. It is incorporating Truth into your life and allowing the Holy Spirit to make it real for you. Being saved means that you move from the works of the flesh to the fruit of the spirit. To renew the mind is not just having a new list, but to undergo constant spiritual change.

## **WE ARE BEING TRANSFORMED**

### **2 Corinthians 3:18**

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being “transformed” into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. So, what are we all about? This welcome brochure will help you get to know us better.

## **WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE HUMAN MIND?**

Why do our minds need renewal? What is wrong with it? We often think that one of the problems with the human mind is that it does not have all the information we need. Education is the fix. Get people educated and we fix societies problems, crime, terrorist, drug abuse, etc. The thing is just that some of the greatest crimes in the world are perpetrated by educated people. Education even increased people's ability to harm others, e.g. war, chemical & biological weapons, internet crime, mind control, etc.

The unregenerate carnal mind is hostile to God's authority. The unregenerate mind opposes the ways of God. “I will not yield to Gods authority.” It suppresses the truth and does not want God in our knowledge.

We have exchanged the glory of God for the glory of man. We have become our own goal, our own end in life. Although education is good, it is not good enough. The goal is to have a changed mind that embraces the authority of God in our lives.

### **Ephesians 4:22-24 (NKJV)**

*...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

### **1 Peter 1:13-14 (NKJV)**

*Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;*

### **Ephesians 4:17-18**

*You must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.*

## **ISRAEL REFUSED TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND**

In Numbers 14 we see how Israel did not enter the promised land because they still had a lot of Egyptian (worldly) thinking in them. When God said now is the time to enter the Land, they did not believe Him. Although the LORD demonstrated Himself powerful on their behalf, they did not incorporate it into their lives. As a result they had to go to the desert for 40 years. If we want to enter the Promised Land that God has for us, we need to think about it the way that God does. Old slave mentality thinking can cost you being used by God.

## **TWO THINGS NEED TO HAPPEN**

### **1. We need the Holy Spirit working in us from the outside in.**

How? By us working with Him in spending time in God's word, focus on truth, listening to Bible messages, reading books that is truthful etc. Pursue Christ exalting truth. Saturate yourself in godly thinking. Read God's Word. But it is really more than just reading. It is a matter of absorbing and interacting with God's Word. When we read the Bible, we must constantly be asking ourselves, "What does this mean for my daily life." Meet regularly with Christian friends who share our commitment to Christ. We must work to expand our thinking so that we are not just one-dimensional believers. Replace self-focused thinking with a God-focused mindset.

How does the renewal happen? By the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit renews us. It is first and decisively His work. We are radically dependent on him. Our efforts follow his initiatives and enabling.

### **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)**

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (or this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit)*

The devil also wants to affect your thinking, but in a negative way. He wants to fill you with images and messages and doctrines of demons through worldly movies,

views, philosophy, etc to keep you in a carnal existence. If he can get you to think according to a sinful worldly system, you will act that way.

2. **The Holy Spirit work from the inside out.** Our hearts are soften by the Holy Spirit.

**Titus 3:5**

*[God] saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*

Outside in and inside out, both are important.

**Philippians 4:8**

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

**CONCLUSION**

Paul concludes in Romans 12 :2 that you are to present your body and renew your mind so that you may “prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

To focus my mind on God requires some work. If I don't take purposeful action to set my mind on Jesus Christ, then I'm allowing my mind to go anywhere it wants to go. I know where it will go, and it's nowhere good.

**Colossians 3:1-2**

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

**Romans 8:5**

*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*

**Philippians 4:8**

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

Ultimately, God wants me to be transformed to be like his Son, Jesus. He was totally focused on the will of the Father. Because that was true of Him, it will increasingly (if I renew my mind) be true of me...and someday, that work in me will be complete.