

PROVING GOD’S WILL-PT 3
BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND
ROMANS 12:1-2

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Introduction

I mentioned this morning that the second most downloaded sermon on our *SermonAudio.com* site is from when I preached on the last half of Romans 12:2 almost 13 years ago when I was preaching through the **BOOK OF ROMANS!** (That sermon has been downloaded 506 times!) I tell you that not as a matter of pride, but as a matter of interest! It tells me that folks are interested in that transformation process!

Thus far we have seen here that the **APOSTLE PAUL** calls for **BELIEVERS** to **PROVE GOD’S WILL IN THEIR LIFE** by:

1. Presenting their bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.
2. Not being conformed to this world.

Tonight we want to look at **PAUL’S** third admonition found in *verse 2*.
“But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TRANSFORMED?
“Transformed” means **“to change into a different form.”**

It comes from the Greek word **“metamorphoo”** where we get our word **metamorphosis** from. We’re familiar with **metamorphosis...**

*e.g. That is the **transformation** that takes place when an ugly caterpillar forms a cocoon and in process of time **transforms** into a beautiful butterfly.*

*e.g. Also, remember the toys that came out back in the 1980's called **“transformers.”** I saw some at Walmart on Friday of last week that I guess are still tied to TV shows and movies about them. Those **“transformers”** change from one form into another form.*

*e.g. When I was a kid, we used a different kind of **“transformer”** to convert electricity into a different form that could be used for a particular purpose— Like a Toy Train Track or Toy Race Car Track.*

When **PAUL** speaks of **BELIEVERS** being **TRANSFORMED** here he’s talking about the process whereby we are **CHANGED** more into the likeness of **CHRIST**—especially with regard to our **MIND!**

II. WHAT IS THE MIND?

Dr. Charles Ryrie in his book **“Balancing The Christian Life”** says: *“The words used in the Old and New Testaments for ‘mind’ express a variety of ideas. The Bible has no word for brain; therefore the concept of the **mind** does not mean the physical organ but **the varied functions of intellect, volition and emotions which are associated with mind in the Scriptures.**”*

A. The MIND Involves the INTELLECT!

Intellect has to do with our ability to reason, know, and think!

B. The MIND Involves the EMOTIONS!

*Emotions have to do with our feelings!
(e.g. There are feelings of love, fear, happiness, sadness, anger, and joy among other feelings just to name a few!)*

C. The MIND Involves the WILL!

Our will involves our ability to decide or make decisions and initiate actions based on those decisions! Purpose!

III. WHY DOES THE MIND NEED TO BE RENEWED?

A. Our MIND Needs To Be RENEWED Because The MIND Of Our Old Nature (i.e. The Old Man) Is Still Corrupt Even After We Get Saved!

Romans 8:7—*“The carnal mind is enmity against God.”*

If we’re honest, we know that one of our greatest struggles is with our thought lives! Amen!?

Well, at least I know that’s the case in my own life!

Daily we combat with thoughts of worry, doubt, fear, lust, evil thoughts, anger, malice, bitterness and the list goes on.

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B. Our MIND Needs To Be RENEWED Because Of The Effects Of Wrong Programming!

In computer terminology it would be called **"GIGO"**.
"Garbage In, Garbage Out."

Scientists have called the **HUMAN MIND** *"the most complex living mechanism in the world."*

Our BRAIN is the most influential organ of our body!

As it goes, so goes our ability to carry on a good life!

(I learned that experientially 20 years ago on this very weekend when I had a light stroke at age 46.)

Our BRAIN accounts for our ability to think, remember, love, hate, feel, reason, imagine, and analyze!

The average **BRAIN** weighs about 3 pounds. **It contains some 12 billion cells. Each of those 12 billion cells is connected to 10,000 other brain cells, totaling some 120 trillion BRAIN connections!**

Is it any wonder that some scientists have stated that **the HUMAN BRAIN is the most complex arrangement of matter in the universe?** *(Yet, some want to say it just happened!)*

Some have **compared the HUMAN BRAIN to a sophisticated computer, but the last time I checked, technology still hasn't even come close to duplicating its capabilities!**

According to **Dr. Tim Lahaye** in his book *"Mind Siege,"* the man who holds over 50 patents on the IBM computer, **Dr. Gehard Dirks**, says that **he acquired most of his inventive ideas from studying the functions of the HUMAN BRAIN.**

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Commenting on its complexity, he stated, *"If we could invent a computer that would duplicate the capabilities of the human brain, it would take a structure the size of the Empire State Building just to house it."*

Our **BRAIN** supervises everything we do—from the involuntary beat of our heart to the conscious decisions of life.

It controls our hearing, sight, smell, speech, eating, resting, learning, prejudices, and everything else that makes us behave as we do!

Our **EYES** and our **EARS** are the **PRIMARY AVENUES** that **receive information that programs our MIND and thereby influences our life!**

One aspect of the **HUMAN MIND** can be illustrated by a file cabinet because it is the principal place of memory. **From its files we make our deductions, judgments and decisions.**

What we SEE and HEAR influences the thoughts of our MIND. Our MIND determines our ACTIONS!

Everything we see, hear, touch, taste and smell is recorded on the lobes of our BRAIN!

Example—When I say 9/11 what comes to mind.
When I say orange what comes to mind.
When I say pig pen what comes to mind.

Example—Old people in the nursing home sometimes rattle on and on subconsciously about events and people they may have long forgotten consciously.

Some information remains in our **SUBCONSCIOUS FILES** and **cannot be recalled at will as those things that are in the CONSCIOUS section can be.**

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Something as simple as a SIGHT, SMELL, TASTE or SOUND may draw it back into your CONSCIOUS thought!

e.g. Walking in a mall or department store and you hear a certain song play and your mind goes back to something in your past associated with that song.

Now, understand that because **everything we SEE and HEAR is indelibly recorded in our MIND and the things recorded on our MIND influence how we THINK and our THINKING influences our BEHAVIOR, it is of utmost importance that we guard our MIND!**

*e.g. Remember the serial killer **Ted Bundy's** interview with **Dr. James Dobson** regarding the effect of pornography on his life?*

***James 1:14-15**–“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”*

e.g. Some of the Rock and Roll music of the 1960's and forward have escalated perverted sex, rebellion, drugs, and the occult. Many have reaped what has been sown there!

e.g. There are numerous examples of people viewing television programs and movies and then acting them out.

Many people who wouldn't think to act out what they view are still affected by Hollywood's liberal, worldly agenda.

Never forget the verse **1 Corinthians 15:33**–“*Evil communications corrupt good manners.*”

So, what are you programing your **MIND** with?
Be careful of what you watch, read, and listen to!

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WHY DOES THE MIND NEED TO BE RENEWED?

Because The Mind Of Our Old Nature (The Old Man) Is Still Corrupt Even After We Get Saved.

Because Of The Effects Of Wrong Programming.

C. Our MIND Needs To Be RENEWED Because All Of Our Lives, Prior To Us Coming To A Saving Knowledge Of JESUS, We Were Pressed Into The Mold Of This World!

We didn't have the **MIND OF CHRIST** then!

We did whatever we could to try to fit in with the world!

e.g. I was not athletic growing up. But I was under intense pressure to become that way. I couldn't and it was a source of frustration.

D. Our MIND Needs To Be RENEWED Because Even After We Are Saved, The World Keeps Trying To Press Us Into Its Mold!

There is constant pressure—At school, at work, sometimes even at home (especially if one has an unsaved spouse or parents), There is pressure in the marketplace...**EVERYWHERE!**

IV. HOW DO WE RENEW THE MIND?

A. Recognize The Source Of RENEWAL!

***Psalm 51:10**–“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”*

1. We Are Not RENEWED By A Determination To Be RENEWED—Though We Do Need To Be Determined To Be RENEWED!

2. We Are Not RENEWED By Making An Outward Change—Though When We Are RENEWED it Will Work Itself Into Some Outward Manifestations In Our Lives!

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3. **We Need To SURRENDER Our All To God—He Alone Can RENEW Us!**
Matthew 22:37—“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

Recognize The Source Of RENEWAL...

B. Visualize The Reward Of RENEWAL!

What's in it for me? Why should I do this?

1. **Peace—Isaiah 26:3—“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”**
2. **Hope—Lamentations 3:21—“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.”**
3. **Proving The Will Of God—Romans 12:2**
4. **Becoming Like Christ—Romans 8:29**

C. Utilize The Resources GOD Has Given Us For RENEWAL!

1. **The Holy Spirit!**
John 16:13—“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:”
2. **The Word Of God! (Psalm 119:9-16)**
3. **Prayer!**
Matthew 26:41—“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

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4. **The Local Church! (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)**
Just as a limb cannot function properly apart from the life giving sources in the human body, so also a **BELIEVER** cannot function properly apart from being vitally connected with **GOD'S LOCAL CHURCH!**

Recognize The Source Of Renewal!

Visualize The Reward Of Renewal!

Utilize The Resources God Has Given Us For Renewal!

D. Replace Wrong Thinking With Right Thinking!
(2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Philippians 4:8)

1. **Delight In The Word Of God! (Psalm 1:1-2)**
2. **Get A Grip On The Word Of God!**
Read It.
Hear It.
Study It.
Memorize It.
Meditate On It.
3. **Let The Word Of God Get A Grip On You!**
Obey It.

If you let it affect your thinking then it will affect your living!

Conclusion

Are you being **CONFORMED** to this world or are you being **TRANSFORMED?**

Are you feeding the **FLESH** or are you feeding the **SPIRIT?**

Quit dabbling in the world and get serious about having your **MIND RENEWED!**