



“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)



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Page 2... Renewing the Mind
Page 4... Book Launches
Page 5... Forgiveness in Marriage

Page 7... On The Calendar
Page 8... Healing Through the Centuries
Page 9... Merry Christmas

Renewing the Mind

By Jane Jones

Do not conform 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. (Rom. 12:2 NIV)

Time for a change! Why do we need to renew our minds? Romans 12:2 tells us so that we may prove for ourselves what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God for us who believe. We can know His will for our lives and in all situations.

Suppose others could read our minds? Wouldn't we make every effort to control our thoughts so that we were only thinking nice things? It says in Matthew 9:4 that Jesus knew what the teachers of the law were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil your hearts?" In a situation like that, we would likely be tempted to respond, "Well, we didn't say it out loud." We need to realise that even harbouring evil thoughts gives them a root in us and pollutes us.

The Way We Think Determines Our Walk

We are body, soul and spirit. The soul is our mind, will and emotion. When a thought comes into our mind, we make a decision whether to react with the flesh or the spirit. We choose our response, which means we can't blame the devil if we choose wrongly, even though he may have sent one of his fiery- darts to lead us astray. The choice is ours alone.

Our soul can operate like a teeter-totter. Depending on which side the heaviest weight is on, we can either be firmly anchored or helplessly waving our feet in the air, trying to get back on firm ground. Our mind is the deciding factor: do we go the way of the flesh or the way of the spirit?

Paul tells us in 2Cor.5:17 that in Christ we are a new creation, old things have passed away. However, letting go of the old is not easy. In some parts of our lives, we still cling to things of the flesh, and are reluctant to become the reality of our new status as a new creation. We are afraid to step out of our comfort zone. Paul says in Galatians 2:20: "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Our flesh does not like to be crucified!

John 3:6 says, "that which is born of the spirit is spirit and that which is born of the flesh is flesh." So where do our thoughts spring from? Do they come from the Word which is spirit and life, or from the flesh which is death? Because we are a work in progress, our spirit is born again, but not our mind or our body. We are in a state of *progressive sanctification*, and we still have the same fears and attitudes which we need to work on.

Paul tells us in Colossians 3:2 to set our mind on things above not on earthly things, for we died and our life is now hidden with Christ. This is the believer's position in Christ. That is our *positional sanctification*. Then he goes on to tell us to "put to death therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature" (v5). The effort of putting aside our earthly nature is *progressive sanctification*.

In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus tells us to love God with all our heart, our soul and our mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. An important part of renewing our minds is to remove every thought that is not birthed in love. We cannot harbour resentment, hatred, envy or bitterness, because those things give the enemy access to our lives.

Paul tells us in Romans 8:29 that God's plan for us is to be conformed to the image of Jesus. In Philippians 2:12-13, Paul tells us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Positionally, we are sanctified through the blood, but *progressive sanctification* is becoming more Christ-like as we deal with things in our lives that don't glorify God.

We cannot have a slavery mindset like the Israelites in Exodus. They were still conformed to their old world; they still saw themselves as slaves. We can be enslaved to our old religious ways of doing things, bound to a ritual rather than a relationship. Our liturgy is life-giving when we allow the Holy Spirit to move through it, but when we approach it as mere (mindless) repetition we are not choosing life.

Many people never crossed into the Promised Land because they hadn't renewed their mind. God had taken them out of Egypt, but couldn't take Egypt out of them. That was up to them. God had given them the promises through Moses, but they didn't want to change. They had left Egypt physically, but they were still in bondage to their past. How many times does that happen to us? How often do we look back instead of pressing forward?

Before we knew Christ, our mind ruled. We were led by feelings and emotions. The battle of the mind begins in earnest when we ask Jesus to be Lord of our life. Our minds decide whether to follow the voice of the spirit or the voice of the flesh. So if our mind is renewed with the Word, and it is strong in us, there is no conflict. We can go through the motions - listen to sermons, read the Bible, pray etc - but never change because we have not made the effort to renew our minds, or change our way of thinking. If I am still conformed to the world's way of thinking - the old way, the way of the flesh - how can I prove what the perfect will of God is for me? My old way of thinking hinders that.

Truth and revelation come with thinking God's way. And to think God's way, we need the help of the Holy Spirit. 2Cor.3:17-18 reminds us that, "The Lord is spirit, and where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. And we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory are being transformed into His likeness with ever

increasing glory, which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

The word "transformed" is the same as "transfigured." In Matthew 17:2: on the mount, His face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as the light. The same word is used in Ephesians 4:22-24 (be renewed in spirit of mind), and in Romans 12:2 (be transformed by renewing of our mind). The common word in all these examples is *metamorphose*, which means to go through a complete change of form.



A butterfly develops its muscles through the process of metamorphosis, and we too become stronger as we push into change.

I am seeing a hunger and thirst for the deeper things of God in the body, so our minds need to be open to the things He wants to show us. We need to fill ourselves with the meat of the Word and become mature. He is saying: Church arise... and be that new creation, be those who 'turn the world upside down!' We need to leave behind the old things, the old way of thinking, and be transformed into a light in the world. In the midst of the darkness we see around us, we should be that beacon that attracts others to the light of Christ.

We don't know exactly where we are in God's time clock, but my sense is that it

is later than we think. Here are two scriptures to ponder in this season:

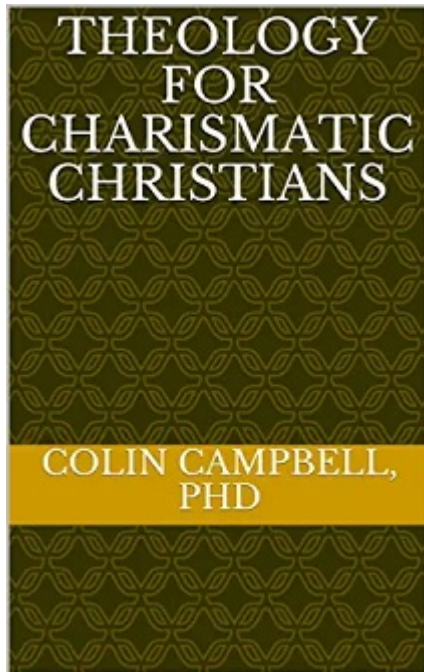
1 Peter 5:8: Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. (NLT)

Romans 13:11: This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time

is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (NLT)

There are many in the valley of decision who need to hear the Gospel of truth. It is about the harvest. Be transformed!

Jane Jones is the ARM Prayer Coordinator



Congratulations To Dr. Colin Campbell on his Book Launch!

“Theology for Charismatic Christians” is the result of 40 years of reflection on the three great doctrines of the Christian faith: the Trinity, the Incarnation and the Atonement. It explains the orthodox faith using plain statements and integrates the ideas in a unified way from a charismatic Christian perspective. <http://www.Amazon.ca>

eBook Coming Soon!
**Watch your inbox for the
December release of**

**For a Time Such as This:
Testimonies of Divine
Healing and God’s
Goodness.**



The Healing Power of Forgiveness in Marriage

By the Rev. Dr. Ed Hird

Reflecting on what makes a marriage work, I was struck by how vital is the gift of forgiveness. My wife, by the way, is very gifted at forgiving, probably because I have given her so much practice. My wife is also very patient and persevering, as I have noticed that often in our marriage, it has taken me a while to really grow and change. The fact that she never gives up on me, and that she keeps on believing the best for me, is a wonderful gift indeed.

I recently read a fascinating book entitled 'Men & Women: Enjoying the Differences' by the best-selling author Dr. Larry Crabb. He commented that 'self-centered living is the real culprit in marriages with problems. Other-centered living is the answer.' Many of us enter marriage thinking that our spouse will meet our deepest needs. We then feel cheated when they don't, and begin to close our hearts. How many of us enter marriage with the view that we are there to serve our spouse? How many of us see marriage as a way of serving God? A marriage where both partners are committed to serving one another, to 'washing one another's feet' is a marriage in which self-centeredness gets sidelined. What will it take, says Dr. Crabb, to realize that our selfishness is without excuse and that our first job, in our friendships and marriages, is to recognize our selfishness and learn how we can change?

One thing that men and women have equally in common is that we are all equally self-centered and selfish. Little growth in marriages take place, says Dr. Crabb, until we realize that the disease of self-centeredness is

fatal to our souls and marriages. Nothing exposes our self-centeredness more clearly than anger. Because our hearts are deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9), we have an amazing ability to justify our own anger and bitterness towards our spouse, while simultaneously excusing our own bad attitudes. Being angry at our spouses can be very attractive, because it makes us feel both powerful and self-righteous. Having coached dozens of couples over the years, I am continually amazed at the self-deception of many who convince themselves that the problem is their spouse, and that their personal faults are far more minor and merely reactive. Self-centeredness is a cancer that blinds us from seeing that the problem is not merely our spouse; the problem is ourselves.

Our culture is saturated with excuses for everything. It is not my fault. It's my spouse's, my parent's, my government's, or my boss' fault. A.A. calls that 'stinking thinking'. Few of us are willing to do a thorough moral inventory of our own personal faults. The bible uses a short, unpopular word for self-centeredness. It calls it 'sin'. Sin doesn't mean that we are axe-murderers or child molesters. The heart of the word 'sin' is the 'I' at the middle. The heart of most marriage problems is self-centered sin.

Dr. E. Stanley Jones, founder of the United Christian Ashram, once said that 'there can be no love between a husband and wife unless there is mutual self-surrender. Love simply cannot spring up without that self-surrender to each other. If either withholds the self, love cannot exist.' A man and his wife were having

painful marriage difficulties. The wife went away to a Christian Ashram, and surrendered her marriage to the Lord. When she returned home, her husband said to her: 'Well, Miss High and Mighty, what did you learn at the Ashram?' She replied: 'I've learned that I've been the cause of all our troubles.' She got up from her chair, came around beside him and knelt, folded her hands and said: 'Please forgive me. I'm the cause of all our troubles.' At that moment, her husband nearly upset the kitchen table, while getting down on his knees beside her. He blurted out,

'You're not the cause of all our troubles — I am.' There they met each other — and God. Each surrendered to Jesus, then they surrendered to each other and were free. Now this couple, instead of continually criticizing each other, are one in love and forgiveness

My prayer for those reading this article is that many may find the healing power of forgiveness in our marriages.

Rev. Dr. Ed Hird www.edhird.com



On The Calendar

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HEALING THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Colin C M Campbell, PhD

This article is based on a Q and A that I did recently on a TV program.

Q: Why is this kind of prayer not more commonly found in the church today?

A: I think there are a couple of reasons. One is the way in which the church developed. The other is the rise of science.

If we take the church issue first, throughout the first few centuries of Christianity, there was the Gnostic heresy. To deal with it, Irenaeus increased the power of the bishops and formalized worship to eliminate the abuse of spiritual practices. However Irenaeus did not seek to eliminate prayers for healing and there is an account of him restoring a dead person back to life.

Healings did not completely disappear but worship was centred on the Mass and healings became the prerogative of saints and relics.

For this reason, in the minds of the Reformers, healing was associated with Catholicism and was regarded as a superstition, since it was based on the apparent worship of relics. The structure of the liturgy then became focused on the Word. Worship became more cerebral. You studied the Bible to find the will of God, if you wanted to find holiness.

This, in turn, produced the Liberal reaction and the training of the clergy became centred on hermeneutics and exegesis, with some pastoral counselling thrown in.

Q: And how did science affect the practice of healing prayer?

A: Let me answer that crudely and succinctly!

Newton and the Enlightenment kicked spirituality out of science. Quantum theory and the Solvay Conference of 1927 kicked ontology out of science. Before Newton, you could argue that science was both spiritual and ontological.

Q: Did Newton believe in God?

A: Yes! But only as a Divine Clockmaker, who wound up the clock and let it run according to his laws of motion. Significantly, he emphatically rejected what he called "vitalism," the suggestion that there were any spiritual influences affecting material events. The age of mechanism had been declared and we still live in its shadow!

Q: Can you say something about quantum theory?

A: Certainly! It turns out that the idea of cause-and-effect as understood by Newton is overly simplistic. Each event is composed of trillions of micro events. We have no theory as to why the micro events are random and no clear explanation as to why they form consistent macro events. Newton did such a good job of expelling vitalism from science, that physicists are unwilling to invoke God as a cause.

Q: It seems like science needs to turn to God for help don't you think?

A: I firmly believe that is the case!

Colin Campbell is former President of The International Order of St Luke the Physician Board of Directors, and was elected the current member for Canada on that Board. Colin is also Interim Director of OSL Region 8 (Ontario).



**Best wishes for a
Merry Christmas and every blessing in the New Year!**

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