

THE MIND

The greatest work that one can do in his life is by changing the way he thinks. This is not a one day achievement but rather a process of time; through the conditioning of his mind. This can be done by subjecting his mind to appropriate information. The most appropriate information we have or can there be is the Word of God.

The Word or scriptures contain God's thoughts, feelings and purposes. By focusing one's mind on the Word of God helps him to obtain the very thoughts and purposes of God.

BACKGROUND

Man is made of three, namely; spirit, soul and body. But in actual sense, man is a spirit having a soul living in a body.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

The spirit is the one who was created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Remember that God is Spirit. My body doesn't look like God because is not physical; He has no material body but He is Spirit.

John 4:24 God [is] Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

When man, the spirit was created, he was given a soul.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Now it is this soul that houses the three entities which include;

1. The mind (thoughts)
2. Emotions (feelings)
3. The will (the faculty of decision making)

The mind is a very important place in man. It is very vital that when you change the mind, then you have changed the whole man. The mind doesn't get born again, but instead it must be renewed.



Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The mind cannot be seen or handled with hands. Actually, if a man is dissected, the mind will never be seen. It is a spiritual entity. You can see the brain but you cannot see the mind whatsoever.

WHY THE MIND

It is within the mind that thoughts take place. Thoughts are very important because they determine the character and course of man.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart [is] not with thee.

This is very true, because as thoughts form, they will determine what man will say and the direction he will take. Therefore whoever takes time to invest in his mind has done a great deal.

KINDS OF MIND

1. CARNAL MIND

This is the mind that is not renewed after the Word of God. It's the mind of the natural man and it can only respond to senses. These senses include hearing, feeling (touch), smell and taste.

This mind only responds to what the senses of man are able to grasp. And these senses can only grasp the things within the next physical environment of man.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

This mind cannot see beyond the natural. It has only been trained to interact with the natural environment. Anything beyond the natural, it cannot get it. It only follows what senses will feed it with. Otherwise, the things beyond what the senses of man can grasp are foolishness to him.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

The carnal mind is so natural that it cannot receive Spiritual truths. It only relates with the senses. That's why many people in the world cannot tell or understand Spiritual experiences, because they cannot pick them with their minds. Many are even learned, but they were taught to engage their senses. And all they know is what their senses has fed them.



This mind is also enmity to God. God is Spirit, and He wants us to operate at Spirit level. But you see the far this mind can go is only the natural. Therefore it hinders the operations of God.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

God is Spirit and whoever is to relate with Him must relate with Him in the Spirit.

This kind of enmity to God the carnal mind produces death.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace.

This means that it causes man to be separated from God. God is Spirit and only operates in the Spirit, the carnal mind is natural and can only operate in the natural, hence the separation. Death is separation from life, God is our life; so if you separate from Him then you are dead. And that's what the carnal mind accomplishes.

The carnal is also called the flesh. It employs senses and reason. Reason is the process of thinking about something in a logic way. Logic includes methods, processes and formulas. With these, you can never please God, because He is above them all.

Romans 8:8 (NIV) Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

2. THE REPROBATE MIND

This is a debased mind. This means a lowering in value, status, esteem, quality and character. It means to degrade or to adulterate.

Romans 1:27-28 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

When you look at the portion of scripture above, one example of people you can relate with are the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 19:4-5 But before they lay down, the men of the city, [even] the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where [are] the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them (have sexual relations with them).



The men of these cuties were homosexuals; man having sexual relations with another fellow man. Verse 27 of Romans 1 in the above scripture says they abandoned the natural use of a woman. This means that man having sexual relations with a woman is very natural, that can be conceived by a natural mind.

But in this case, the Reprobate mind fetches things in a realm below the natural. These are things too far in wickedness. Homosexuality was unheard of. It was never the will of God. However this kind of mind was so much exerted in the demonic realm to fetch it. It is the mind beyond corruption.

This kind of mind is easily given to the following things that are not fitting, not proper and things that should never be done.

Romans 1:29-31 (in an expanded form)

- a. Being filled with all unrighteousness. They are full of injustice and violate every law
- b. fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with close relatives and animals
- c. wickedness, depravity, iniquity with evil purposes and desires
- d. covetousness. This is greedy desire to have more
- e. maliciousness; desire to injure. Such people are wicked without being ashamed of breaking laws
- f. full of envy. They are prompted by envy.
- g. murder, i.e. manslaughter
- h. debate, i.e. contentions, strife and wrangling
- i. deceit, i.e. craftiness and guile
- j. malignity; this means having bad character and depravity of heart and life.
- k. whisperers, these are secret slanderers.
- l. Backbiters, these are evil speakers who desire to destroy people's fame
- m. haters of God, these are exceptionally impious and wicked
- n. spiteful, this is one who uplifted with pride either heaps insulting language upon others or does them shameful acts of wrong.
- o. proud, this shows himself above others, treats others with contempt and despises others
- p. boasters, these are empty pretenders
- q. inventors of evil things. These take time to discover evil things.
- r. disobedient to parents, these are unpersuadable and not compliant
- s. Without understanding. These are stupid and foolish.
- t. covenant breakers. These are faithless and treacherous.
- u. without natural affection. These are unsociable, in human, unloving and hard hearted.
- v. implacable. These cannot be persuaded to enter a covenant.

w. unmerciful: these are merciless people having no compassion

People with such a kind of mind are so deliberate to do evil. You can't say they do things unknowingly, no; they do evil while they know and intentionally. And not only that, they go ahead to approve and endorse those that do such evil things.

Romans 1:32 (AMP) Though they are fully aware of God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them themselves but approve and applaud others who practice them.

People with a Reprobate mind deliberately resist, oppose and are hostile to the truth. They never want the move of the truth to progress, they can do anything to cut it short.

2 Timothy 3:8 (AMP) Now just as Jannes and Jambres were hostile to and resisted Moses, so these men also are hostile to and oppose the Truth. They have depraved and distorted minds, and are reprobate and counterfeit and to be rejected as far as the faith is concerned.

They profess that they know God but deliberately deny Him through their actions

Titus 1:16 (KJV) They profess that they know God; but in works they deny [him], being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

3. MIND OF CHRIST

This is the kind of mind that can be obtained as a result of the Word of God. This is where God wants us, to carry the very mind of Christ. It's imperative to study God's Word. The Word of God teaches us to know the feelings, counsels and purposes of God. With such a kind of mind, we are able to know that things freely given to us by God.

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Let's study the previous verses of this portion of scripture and see what the Spirit of God is teaching us.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

There are two Spirits mentioned in this portion, one which of the world and the other of God. And the Bible assures us that we didn't receive the spirit of the world (the devil) but of God, the



Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit teaches us and reveals to us the Word of God, this is the primary purpose of the Holy Spirit in us.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The Holy Spirit gives us the perspective of God through His Word. And as we continue to subject our minds to the school of the Spirit, then we get transformed. Getting born again is good but not enough. We must be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

When the mind gets renewed, that's when we are able to discover the three levels of God's will, namely;

1. The good will
2. The acceptable will
3. The perfect will

We get transformed from being carnal, get to the point of realizing that good will. However we don't stop here, we continue and discover the acceptable will and finally the perfect will of God. God's desire is that every born again Christian discovers that perfect will that God prepared for them from the foundations of the world. Every person was predestined for something Precious and great but can only found through God's Word.

You can be born again but remain carnal. Carnality is of the mind and not of the spirit. At the time of getting born again, your spirit is rebirthed or recreated but not your soul where your mind is. Your mind needs to be renewed, hence it has to be subjected to the teaching of the Word of God. Being born again is a one-time event, whereas the renewing of your mind is a continuous life time process. It doesn't happen overnight. And everyday we are expected to get better, in Jesus Name.

RENEWING YOUR MIND

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.



In the above portion of scripture, there are three words we are going to take a close look at, and then they will help us understand the meaning of the whole verse.

1. To Conform

In Greek it is ***Suschematizo***. This means to;

- To fashion one's self according to a certain pattern
- To conform one's mind and character to a pattern of things
- To get adapted to certain customs
- To copy behaviors and customs.

Synonyms used in the Thesaurus for Conform are: accommodate, attune, fit, harmonize, make room, comply or follow.

When we were growing up, there were many things that we conformed to. These things or events we observed and followed, and as a result, they caused an effect in the way we talk, walk, and dress, what we eat and where we hang out from. They formed our character and personality. Whether consciously or unconsciously, there is a role model for every person. These role models will dictate the lifestyles of those who look up to them. Cultures, traditions and customs are born out of conformity.

2. To Transform

The Greek uses the word ***Metamorphoo***. From a primary school science, you remember we used the word metamorphosis especially in the stages of an insect such as a butterfly. Insects go through metamorphosis as they grow. This word means;

- To change into another form
- To be transfigured
- To metamorphose

From the English Thesaurus, we find synonyms such as: to revolutionize, denature, transpose, shift gears or to switch.

So from all this, you will discover that Christ desires us to metamorphose or be transfigured. He wants us to change from one form to another.

3. To Renew.

The Greek uses the word ***Anakainosis*** which means:

- To renew,
- To renovate,



- To completely change for better
- To be changed into a new kind of life.

From the English Thesaurus, we find synonyms such as: recondition, reestablish, rehabilitate, reinvigorate, replace or to replenish

From the definitions above, we are required to recondition our minds. This can be possible by replacing whatever we had in our minds with the Word of God. Let's dump all the the information we had before and replace it with the Word of God, His thoughts and purposes.

All this tells us that for us to stop conforming to this world, then we need to be transformed, metamorphosed or transfigured. But this is also possible when we recondition our minds. At the end of this all, we are able to conform to another pattern; the will of God.

Colossians 3:1-3 (NKJV) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

We have got to set our minds on Heavenly realities. To do this, we must use another mirror rather than what we have been using before. The mirror of God's Word, which is able to show us the things in the Heavenly places where Christ is seated.

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.

The mirror is the Word of God. What matters is not what People say, what is written in newspapers or what is watched on TV, but what the Word of God says. As we continuously behold in this mirror, we are transformed into the very image we see there. What's that image? It's Christ Himself, the glory of the Father. He is the light of the world, and in Him there is no darkness at all. The Word gives us the words to speak, the pattern to follow and the thoughts of our minds.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

In this scripture, Jesus said that after ministering to a woman who was caught in adultery. Everyone condemned her, but Jesus showed her Grace. That's what light can do, it makes you think different from others. It makes you look at a certain pattern that others don't know.

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."



In this verse, Jesus was ministering to a man born blind. While others were wondering whether the man was blind because of his parents' sins or his own sins, Jesus saw an opportunity to show God's grace and works. He thought different from others.

It is true that a mind takes on the life of what it focuses on. When you think so much on music, you will feel like singing. When you think so much on soccer, you will feel like enrolling in one of the football clubs. But when you continuously focus your mind on Christ, then you will be more like Him.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares [us,] and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Definitely as you study from the scripture above, you discover that there are many things that would want to define you. They desire you to focus on them. But the writer beseeches us to look up to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. How? Take an example below.

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues [in it,] and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

So it's important that we look in the perfect law of liberty and not only that but also continue there in. But many people miss it here, they think it's all about reading the Bible, yet ignore what it says and do the opposite. No, it doesn't work that way. Such people are described as forgetful hearers.

Transformation is a process and every process has steps. When one step is jumped, the process is incomplete. Hearing of the Word is very good, but doing it is necessary. For that case, we look into the law of liberty (mirror) and continue there in by doing what it says.

James 1:22-24 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

Because this man forgets, then that means he will return to his vomit. He will be held captive in the patterns of the world.

Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.



This man refuses to Conform to the world in verse one and chooses to renew his mind in verse two. You can do one and leave the other. They go hand in hand. If you refuse to follow the pattern of the world, then you must change your mind to follow another pattern, the Heavenly one. Or else you will forcefully follow the world's pattern. The Holy Spirit calls the man of Psalms 1:1-2 blessed.

There are three patterns that man conforms to in this world according to the above scripture, namely;

- The counsel of the ungodly
- The way of sinners
- The seat of the scornful

Verse two shows us the light, the way to follow, namely; To delight in the law of the Lord, Meditating there in day and night. Meditation is the work of the mind. When you continue, you discover the results of engaging your mind in the law (the Word) of the Lord.

Psalms 1:3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

In this verse, we are able to see the latter state of a man that meditates on the Word of God. This man is like a tree planted by the rivers of water. He has continuous supply and he has no consciousness of need. And the results he manifests are;

- Brings forth fruit in his season. This is continuous productivity, fruitfulness.
- His leaf withers not. He is ever strong and sound.
- Whatever he does prospers.

This sums up transformation. Then you discover that transformation is the outside manifestation of the renewed mind. When you are transformed, it means you have been transported into another realm, form, or dimension.

ONE ACCORD

People cannot work together unless they carry the same mind. Having the same mind, (one Accord or being like-minded) is never an accident but obtained through effort. It is possible when people are feeding on one kind of information. It is important to realize where you are going as a group of people, outline the vision and the objectives, and follow your mission. You feed on these continuously until all of you have the same picture of the end point. The Apostle Paul admonished the Church in Romans to carry the same mind.



Romans 12:15-16 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

You see, it's not in order for all the people to be weeping and then you are rejoicing. Paul says, weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. This is one mind, it doesn't matter what you wanted to do. Because others are doing it and you are part of them, then do it.

Romans 15:5-6 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind [and] one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having the same mind helps to kill conflicts and enhances Harmony and fellowship. The unity of the brethren is very vital especially in ministry and kingdom business. It gives birth to extraordinary strength and accelerates the work of kingdom advancement. Apostle Paul repeated this exhortation in the Epistle to the church in Philippi in an expanded manner.

Philippians 2:1-3 Therefore if [there is] any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind. [Let] nothing [be done] through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

He uses these phrases such as like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind. These are the same; he is in fact stressing the point of one mindedness. Having one mind means;

- to carry the same thoughts
- to have the same understanding on a particular subject
- having the same purposes and intentions

This is the strength of fellowship, working together. It doesn't tolerate disagreement and strife. What a joy fills such a place!