

THE RENEWAL OF THE MIND

...."Put the trumpet to your lips! Like an eagle the enemy comes against the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed My covenant, and rebelled against My law. They cry out to Me, "My God, we of Israel know Thee!" Israel has rejected the good; the enemy will pursue him"....

Hosea 8:1-3

WE MUST CONFORM OURSELVES TO GOD'S WAY OF THINKING AND GOD'S WAY OF DOING THINGS

We are going to look at some things concerning the renewing of our minds and the extreme importance of our minds being wholly renewed to the "revealed knowledge" of God's Word. In the above scripture the Lord is speaking through the prophet Hosea and He is telling him to put the trumpet to his lips. Anytime the word says to "blow the trumpet" God is talking about sounding an "alarm", so from this we are able to see that in this passage Hosea is called to sound an alarm to the people of Israel. Why? Because the enemy comes against the house of the Lord. The enemy which is mentioned here is a type and symbol of Satan coming against the Church of God and in the next line we see clearly why the enemy is able to come against the house of the Lord: because they have transgressed His covenant and rebelled against His law. In this last hour as the Church is being purified and refined, in order that She might become the spotless and unblemished Bride, we are going to have to become a people who refuse to "transgress" the covenant we have with God and thus refuse to rebel against His Word, otherwise we are going to be subject to "open attack" by Satan. We know that the Church has been given authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19) and we know that "all authority" has been given both in Heaven and on earth to Jesus Christ - who in turn gave that authority to His Church - and it is now time for every child of God to begin operating in the Power of God which resides within them, that is, the Holy Spirit, and begin to become "fully dependent" on the Word of God for all things. In reality, God has not made any other provision for us and therefore we must conform ourselves to God's way of thinking and God's way of doing things and "forsake all" that is apart from God, so that we will not in any way be outside of the covenant we have with Him - a covenant which has been made for our deliverance and protection in this earth and which has been ratified by the precious Blood of Jesus.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "RENEWED MIND"

We must never in any way seek to exalt "ourselves" above God's Word. So today we are going to look at the importance of the renewed mind and its relationship to our fulfilling God's will in this earth. Every believer needs to understand that God has a "position" for each one of them to be in (both spiritually and physically) and if they are not in the position which God desires them to be in then they are going to be found in the position which Satan desires them to be in - for the purpose of carrying out his "deadly" schemes against them - and that is "the world". If the children of God allow themselves to be conformed to the ways of Satan's "domain", he will surely be enabled to retain control of our lives to a "certain" degree.

...."You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"....

James 4:4

As we look at this portion of scripture in James 4 we are going to see clearly the seriousness of "fellowship" (friendship) with the world. I have stated before that "fellowship with the world" is not defined by our physical actions necessarily, but the basis for defining fellowship with the world is our heart-attitude towards God, in other words, is our heart toward God or is it toward the things of the world? The Father does not look upon the outward appearance or judge by physical circumstances, He looks upon the deepest thoughts and intentions of our heart. We must take heed to this word (James 4:4) which is spoken here! One of the great problems in the church - UP UNTIL THIS TIME -has been that people have defined fellowship with the world in such a way in their own minds - through the deceptive practices of the Evil One and his forces - so as to "allow" them to do the things which they desire to do and yet refuse to acknowledge the fact that they are indeed "fellowshipping" with the world - having allowed themselves to be held captive by a "spirit of self-justification". We, as "believers", must learn to discern all things in light of God's Word so that we might know exactly where we stand at all times concerning the will of God - never "mentally ascending" in any way to that Word. All things MUST be discerned through the eyes of God and this is why it is so important for us to draw near to God.

...."or do you think that the scripture speaks to no purpose: He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us? But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to You. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you"....

James 4:5-10

We see clearly the command which God has given us to keep ourselves from fellowshiping with the world. As we submit ourselves "wholly" to God and draw near to Him continually, He is able to cleanse and purify our hearts, and in doing so, He will keep us on the straight and narrow path of perfect obedience BY HIS POWER. These are very important words for every child of God to take heed of in this last hour, because those who remain in fellowship with the world are subjecting themselves to serious danger and a "multitude" of troubles and open attacks by Satan and his forces and this is indeed a very serious thing in the eyes of God!

"BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL SPIRITUAL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING"

It is so important for every believer to realize that God wants them in His "position" at all times, that is, the position which He has placed us in Christ in the Heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6).

...."for this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. For He delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the

Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption; the forgiveness of sins"....

Colossians 1:9-14

In this passage we see clearly that we have been delivered from the "domain of darkness" - the domain of darkness being defined as the "world system" of Satan. We must have a revelation of the fact that God has not only delivered us from that domain of darkness, but He has "transferred" us into the "kingdom of His beloved Son".

...."we know (absolutely) that anyone born of God does not (deliberately and knowingly) practice committing sin, but the one who was begotten of God carefully watches over and protects him (Christ's divine presence within him preserves him against the evil - and the evil one does not lay hold (get a grip) on him or touch "him". We know (positively) that we are of God, and the whole world around us is under the power of the evil one"....

1 John 5:18-19 Amplified Translation

It is extremely important for each of us to realize the significance of these two verses. The fact that we are cleansed from our sin by the Blood of Jesus, and that as we fill our hearts with God's Word, then we are "protected" and the evil one cannot "touch" us (get a grip on our heart). In verse 19 we see clearly that the Word states that the whole world around us is under the power of the evil one, therefore, if we are going to "fellowship" with the world and thus align our hearts in some way with Satan's world system, then it means that in some way we are going to come under his "power" and what this basically means is, we are going to "remain" in bondage to fear rather than operating in faith.

...."And we (have seen and) know (positively) that the Son of God has "actually" come to this world and has given us understanding and insight progressively to perceive (recognize) and come to know better and more clearly Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ, the Messiah. This is the true God and life eternal"....

(vs. 20)

John is saying here "we know", in other words, we can see that God both

desires us, and has made the provision for us, to come into an absolute and perfect conformity with the "mind of Christ" in order that we might see and perceive all things through the eyes of God.

...."Little children, keep yourselves from idols - false gods, (from anything and everything that would occupy the place in your heart due to God, from any sort of substitute for Him that would take first place in your life)"

(vs. 21)

In this verse we see the whole key to the renewing of our minds! As the believer puts God first in every aspect of their lives and as they begin to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (the Word of God), then the "process" of the renewing of the mind shall be greatly accelerated in their lives and they shall begin to understand "all things" in accordance with and through the mind of Christ. This is very, very important!

...."Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him"

1 John 2:15

As the child of God retains (maintains) the desire to fellowship with the world they are going to forsake fellowship with the Father and His Word - that "ministering" to Him which He so desires. So the reality of this matter is that if one desires to fellowship with the world then they do not truly desire to fellowship with the Father. We saw clearly in James 4:4 that he who fellowships with the world makes himself an enemy of God. These things are "real" for God judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart and if one allows themselves to remain in or to be lured by Satan to his "domain", then it is looked upon by God as idolatry and rebellion against Him.

THE FATHER IS NOT TRYING TO KEEP ANYTHING FROM US!

...."For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world"

1 John 2:16

The "world" basically operates on the "work ethic" and yet from this verse we see clearly that "all" the things which the world stands for are at enmity with God and are exactly the opposite. In other words the "flesh" seeks only after its "own" (soulish) gratification, whereas the Father desires to satisfy all our needs in the earth as we carry out His will and He has made the provision for that in Christ. Then, there are the greedy longings of the "flesh", that is, those things which fall under the umbrella of covetousness: the deceitfulness of riches and the lust for power, whereas God has freely given us all things, and we have His power living in us - and flowing through us - as we continually humble ourselves before Him. Then there is the pride of life - that deep-rooted assurance of "self-sufficiency" which is a product of man's fallen nature - the "false" assurance that we can make it on our own without God. We need to have a deep revelation of the fact that there is "no good" in us (Romans 7:18) apart from Christ, who strengthens us, and thus we MUST become dependent upon Him for ALL things. So we can see clearly from this passage that everything the world stands for is at enmity with God and this helps to shed light upon the passage that we studied in James chapter 4. Sometimes, as people study the Bible they concentrate on one verse, but until the child of God begins to search with ALL of their heart and they begin to allow the Holy Spirit to lead them from scripture to scripture to scripture - and thus allow Him to paint a deeper revelation of the Father's will in their spirit - one will not get the significance of what He is saying and how He is pointing out the "various dangers" to them. Therefore, from these things we can understand why we are not to "fellowship" with the world. But until we have a "revelation" of why God does not want us to fellowship with the world (that is, so that we can be protected from Satan), then we will always fall prey to the lie that Satan puts forth and that is that the "world" has something to offer - or even worse - that God is trying to take something away from us. God is not trying to keep anything from us! Jesus came to give us life and to give it to us more abundantly and it is Satan who comes only to kill, steal and destroy. So if we are going to fellowship in "his realm" then we are going to subject ourselves to death and destruction and fear in some form. It is not insignificant that in the next few verses we come back to our foundation scripture when John goes on to talk about the anointing which abides within us, that anointing which causes us to walk above the evil of this temporal realm. Not only is God warning us and commanding us to stay out of fellowship with the world, He is also showing us the provision which He has made in Christ.

OUR GOD IS NOT A "CRUEL AND AUTHORITARIAN" GOD!

As one studies the Bible they come to the clear realization that God ALWAYS backs His Word. In other words, if God is going to command us to do something He will always reveal the Word to us which is needed that we might come to understand the fact that He always empowers what He commands. Therefore, we must never approach the Word of God, to view it with a "critical spirit" - having an "inner image" of God as a cruel and authoritarian God, because, if we do, we are going to look for (seek) those things which will seemingly "justify rebellion" against Him!

But if we approach the Word of God with an open heart at ALL times - thus "allowing" the Holy Spirit to reveal that Word - then we shall gain a continually deeper revelation of the love of the Father and we shall come to the deep realization that His desire is for our "greatest good ALWAYS", that we might become partakers of His nature, that we might walk in holiness and that we might have His love shed abroad in our hearts to a continually greater degree. As we separate ourselves from the world and as we begin to "fellowship" with the Word, all of these things shall become evident to us and that ever present light of His presence shall cut through all the darkness and the lies of the Evil One, which he comes against us with.

FELLOWSHIP WITH THE WORLD VERSUS FELLOWSHIP WITH THE WORD

...."And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him"....

(vs.27)

What is being said to us here is that we do not have to enter into the world and its ways to obtain the things which we need from God - and, in reality, there is no way that we can obtain them in the "world" for they are not found there.

As we seek the Father at all times, He will surely see that we are empowered to carry out His will in the earth. One thing about the Anointing which abides

within us - He will ALWAYS lead us to the place wherein we will continually make choices that will allow us to draw nearer to God. "Any" fellowship with the world is "designed" to draw us away from the Father and His Word and into darkness, thus removing us from dependence upon the power of God that indwells us. Therefore, one can see the importance for us - out of love and respect for God - to remove ourselves from any "fellowship with the "world", and we are also able to see that if we do not remove ourselves from "fellowship" with the world, then we are going to "remain" subject to the lies of Satan and the darkness, fear, destruction and death which we have been delivered from in Christ.

WE ARE "COMMANDED" TO LIVE BY THE WORD OF GOD

...."I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father"....

2 John 4 Nasb

Let us make no mistake! We are "commanded" to live by the Word of God. We have looked at the fact before that God has made no other provision for all of His children than to operate and live by the Word of God, and therefore we have no business - if we truly love God - to be outside of that Provision - nor will we desire to, once we have a "clear revelation" of the fact that the Father desires us to fellowship with Him and once we have a clear revelation of the fact that we MUST be empowered in "all things" by Him in order to effect true service in the building up and establishing of the Church.

THE TEACHING OF CHRIST

...."And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the

Father and the Son"....

(vs.5-9)

The "teaching of Christ" is defined as the principles of Christ (the Kingdom of Heaven) as revealed by the Holy Spirit. All the deceptions, all the lies, all those things which are geared to draw us away from God are found in the "world", therefore, when a believer "maintains" a fear of being deceived, it is because they have, in some way, remained in fellowship with the world and they need to humble themselves before God, and they need to remove, and be separated from, the "idols" which they themselves have raised up in their lives. An idol is defined as being anything which we place ahead of our love of God and which occupies the place due to Him. We must see the importance of removing ourselves from any fellowship with the world and its ways, and as we begin to abide in the Word and allow the Word to abide in us, God shall be enabled to reveal to us an abundance of truth and revelation so that we might "walk above" all the darkness of this world.

"IF YOU ABIDE IN MY WORD"

One of the first revelations the believer will receive when they are truly seeking God from a pure heart will be to separate themselves from the "world" and unto the Word of God.

...."If you abide in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"....

John 8:31-32

Many people quote verse 32, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free", but they ignore the first part of that instruction which says, "If you abide in My Word", in other words, if you make your home in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine and it is then that you shall come to know the truth and that (revealed-"known") truth will set you free.

...."They answered Him, "We are Abraham's offspring, and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that you say, you shall become free?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. And the slave does not remain in the house forever; the Son does remain forever. If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham's offspring; yet you seek to kill Me, because My Word has no place in you"....

(vs.33-37)

Jesus, through a "word of knowledge", is looking into their hearts and He clearly perceives in their hearts that Satan is attempting to work through them to kill Him and because their hearts are hardened towards God, His words have no place in them.

...."I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father." They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father". They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God." "If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word"....

(vs.38-43)

The reason they could not hear His word was because of the rebellion in their hearts and it shall be the same for anybody in this last hour who "allows" their heart to be hardened towards the Father and His Word by remaining in fellowship with the world. They will not be able to "hear" His Word or discern His voice and NEVER has it been more "imperative" for the child of God to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, than in this last hour.

...."You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do

not believe Me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God"....

(vs.44-47)

WE NEED TO "SATURATE" OUR HEARTS

In 1 John we looked at the "lusts of this world" and the things which are characteristic of the world system and some of the characteristics of the old nature - that is, the fallen nature of man (the mind of Satan, the nature of Satan) which was inherited by Adam (mankind) at the Fall. We now, as believers, have the mind of Christ, but we need to "saturate" our hearts with the Word of God for we are going to have to bring every one of our thoughts captive to a revelation of that Word - keeping our eyes fixed upon the things above and fixed upon Jesus - in order for us to be "renewed" in our minds to the degree that we shall be enabled to see "all" things through the eyes of God. God is faithful and He is both willing and able to bring these things to pass in our lives as we open our heart to receive all that He has for us. We can see clearly two things here in this passage:

1. There is no truth in Satan, so therefore we can know that there is no element of truth in his "world system".
2. Therefore, if we remain in "fellowship with the world" we are already on a foundation of deception and lies and we will find no light or truth as long as our "hearts" remain there.

THE SOLE AND FINAL AUTHORITY IN OUR LIVES MUST BE THE WORD OF GOD AND THE ANOINTING, WHICH ABIDES WITHIN US

I must say this: when one's senses are "trained" to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:14) then we shall be enabled to see the reciprocal action of Satan's lie as it stands opposite to God's truth, but we must in no way come into any kind of "dependence" upon our souls (mind, will, emotions) in any way - renewed or unrenewed - for the sole and final authority in our lives **MUST** be the Word of God and the Anointing, which abides within us. There are many ways in which Satan is enabled to lure a child of God towards the "world" if their hearts are not wholly given to God for His purposes and if His wisdom is not cherished above all

else. There are two types of wisdom. There is the "darkened" wisdom of this world and there is the "revealed" wisdom (knowledge) of God, and whichever one we cherish in our hearts - that is the wisdom which we are going to live by. It must be clearly understood that one leads to life and one leads to destruction. Therefore, we need to have our minds renewed to the wisdom of God so that we can say with the apostle Paul that "we have the mind of Christ" - and not only that we have the mind of Christ, but also that we are "operating" (abiding) in that Mind. As believers fellowship with the world they leave themselves open to "darkened knowledge" and we must all come to understand that anything which proceeds from the mind of Satan is a lie and is contrary to the Truth, his only purpose being, to lead people away from the Truth (the Word) and into a deep dependence upon themselves - thus allowing him to retain "control" of their lives.

IF WE KEEP OUR EYES FIXED ON THE "THINGS BELOW" THEN WE SHALL BE DRAWN INTO AN AREA OF FALSE HOPE - AN AREA WHEREIN A STRONG DESIRE TO DISCERN ALL THROUGH OUR FIVE "PHYSICAL" SENSES IS STRENGTHENED

There is no truth in him and therefore we must seek to discern "all" things through the eyes of God and the mind of Christ (the Word). If we keep our eyes fixed on the "things below" then we shall be drawn into an area of false hope - an area wherein a strong desire to discern all through our five "physical" senses is strengthened. We must in no way put any hope or trust in anything which proceeds from, or is part of, the world system of Satan, for regardless of how good it may "look", it has no eternal value whatsoever and along with all the other things in the "system" is perishing rapidly. All the things of the temporal realm are "changeable" whereas all the things of God are eternal, therefore to place our faith on anything other than the revealed knowledge of God's Word is foolishness! - for that which looks secure to us may not even exist in a short time. Therefore, let us place our faith solely upon the revealed knowledge of God's Word and allow that Word to become the "anchor of our soul". As we allow our minds to be renewed, and thus put ourselves in a position to be a partaker of the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), then we shall come to a full understanding of that which constitutes to us, "fellowship with the world", that is, those things which hinder our walk with God. This whole area of what is considered fellowship with the world comes down to this one point: do we love the Lord our God with our whole heart and with every fibre of our being or do we still have things in our lives

which we have "allowed" to steal the affections of our heart. Those children of God who remain in fellowship with the world in this last hour will not be able to discern those who are truly of God and those who are not and this is indeed a serious matter!

THE SIMPLICITY AND PURITY OF DEVOTION TO CHRIST

...."But I am afraid, lest the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ"....

2 Corinthians 11:3

This scripture describes perfectly the essence of the true Christian life: "the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." In other words, as one loves the Lord their God with their whole heart and as they desire to discern all things through the eyes of God THEN their minds are continually renewed and conformed to His will and His way of doing things - and because of these things they will come into a deep revelation of that simplicity and purity of devotion which can only be experienced by those who will forsake the things of the world and bring every thought captive to the Word of God. As one continues on in these things, they will begin to truly understand what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:20-25 when he said:

...."Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world"?

...."Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumblingblock, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men"....

It is in this whole area of seeking to exalt ourselves above God, that is, to take a thought which exalts itself above the revealed knowledge of God's Word,

which causes men to stumble. The "mind of man" prides itself in formulating many complicated and complex thoughts and ideas - Satan's goal being to cause confusion and also, in controlling the thought-life of many, to make a "vain" attempt to exalt himself above God, and in his own perverse way usurp the worship of mankind, which truly belongs to God.

THE WISDOM OF GOD HAS CHOSEN THE "CROSS"

The wisdom of God has chosen the Cross and the "foolishness" of that Cross to destroy the impact that Satan has had upon mankind throughout the ages, and to redeem us entirely from all the manifestations of the law of sin and death. As we learn to "rest" in God and learn to bring every thought captive to His Word, then our minds come into that place where we no longer have to strive and strive to come up with an answer or a solution in our own strength, but rather, we simply "allow" the Holy Spirit to reveal the wisdom of God to us through our spirit. It is as we allow this constant renewing process to take place that we shall truly understand the simplicity and the absoluteness of the true Christian life and all the thoughts which were a product of fellowship with the world shall dissipate and our thoughts shall be clear and concise - always being conformed to the perfect will of God. We have talked about the need to separate ourselves from any fellowship with the world, that is, anything in our hearts which is more toward the world and its system than it is toward God. We have talked about the fact that the "whole world" lies in the power of the Evil One and that we are not to love or cherish the world and the things therein. We know that all those things which are of the spirit of anti-Christ are confined to this world and to the "heavens" just above the physical earth and we know that many imposters have gone out into the world in an attempt to deceive us. We know that there is no truth in Satan and we know that we need to have our minds renewed, in order that we come into perfect conformity with the will of God and the mind of Christ.

So keeping these things in mind let us turn over to Colossians chapter 3:1:

IF WE SEEK TO DO ANYTHING APART FROM CHRIST THEN WE SHALL NOT EXPERIENCE LIFE

...."If you then have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God"....

It is written in Hebrews 12:1-2, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus..." and if we are truly going to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus then we are going to have to keep our eyes fixed on the place where He is, and He is seated at the right hand of God.

...."Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth"....

(vs.2)

The cross-reference in verse 2 for the word "set" says "be intent on", and so we are given a very strong indication that we are to fix ourselves steadfastly upon the "things above" and not let anything distract us or deter us from keeping our mind fixed on them and not on the things which are "below". Since we have died with Christ we no longer have the desire to seek after the things of the world, if we truly believe that we have been crucified with Christ, but if we allow the "old man" and all the selfish lusts contained therein to rise up through our unbelief, then we shall find ourselves seeking after things in the world and will not keep our minds on the things above.

...."For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory"....

(vs.3-4)

We must realize that all of our life is "in Christ"! If we seek to do anything apart from Christ then we shall not experience life, but rather death and corruption in our walks - in some form. This is why the Word of God states, sow to the Spirit and you shall reap life, sow to the flesh and you shall reap corruption and death (Galatians 6:8).

...."Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immortality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come"....

(vs. 5-6)

In this last hour those children of God who refuse, in their rebellion and hardness of heart, to love the Lord their God with their whole heart, that is, to obey Him and walk in faith in all things, and who have thus allowed "immorality", "impurity", "passion", "evil desire" and "greed" to be manifested in their lives, shall indeed experience the wrath of God. If we are "allowing" any of these things to get a grip on our lives then we shall "set ourselves" in a place wherein the judgements of God MUST fall. There are many children of God who believe that because they are "under grace" that they are still able to go and do anything that they desire to do. No! We are under grace in order that we might do and be empowered to do those things which God has called us to do and we have to come to a clear realization that we must remain under the Covenant which we have with Him, for without the protecting cover of the Blood of Jesus, we leave ourselves in a "vulnerable position" to Satan.

EVERY WORD THAT IS SPOKEN BY A CHILD OF GOD THAT IS NOT IN PERFECT ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD IS A LIE!

...."And in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created Him...a renewal in which there is no distinction...but Christ is all in all..."

(vs.7-11)

Every word that is spoken by a child of God that is not in perfect accordance with the revealed knowledge of God's Word is a lie! We are being renewed to a true knowledge; we are being renewed to see as God sees and think as God thinks, and thus we shall come to the place wherein we are truly one with God in all our words and actions if we give our hearts "wholly" to Him.

...."For if we go on sinning wilfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins"...

Hebrews 10:26

As we study the scriptures, we shall begin to understand more clearly the need for us to remove the sin from our lives and forsake the world and its ways - thus putting ourselves in a position wherein our minds are continually being renewed to the "true" knowledge or "exact" knowledge of God.

In 1 John 5:18 we looked at the scripture which states:

...."We know that no one who is born of God sins;" (that is deliberately or wilfully practices sin) but he who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him"....

It is very important for each one of us to have a deep revelation of these words and what they mean to us. Again, Hebrews 10:26 states:

...."For if we go on sinning wilfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins"....

This is indeed a very solemn word and we need to give our full attention to it.

A SEVERE WARNING TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD!

...."But a certain terrifying expectation of judgement, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries"....

(vs.27)

Who is considered an adversary of God? Satan and all those who are "aligned" with him - in thought and in word and in deed. The very name "Satan" means adversary, so all those things which are aligned with him are considered by God to be in opposition to Him.

...."Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the Blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay". And again, "the Lord will judge His people". It is a terrifying thing to fall into the

hands of the living God"....

(vs.28-31)

As we take this portion of scripture into the broader context of the letter to the Hebrews, we begin to see clearly that this letter was written to a group of people who were in a "backslidden state" and were moving away from God. As we meditate upon this severe warning to God's people let us put all those things in our lives which are not of God, aside, and continue on with God, realizing that then and only then shall we be fully protected under the glorious Covenant we have with God and only then shall we be cleansed "continually" by the precious Blood of Jesus. We know that as God is raising up a spotless and unblemished Church in this last hour, we are called to walk in "sinless perfection", in an absolute faith and a perfect obedience - having been - and continuing to be - cleansed from "all" defilement of flesh and spirit (2 Corinthians 7:1). We must come to "know" that it is the Anointing that abides within us - the Holy Spirit - who empowers us to accomplish all of these things.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CASTING "ALL" OF OUR CARE ON THE FATHER

...."Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things"....

Philippians 4:4-8

In our last teaching we looked at the importance of casting ALL of our care on the Lord and not taking any anxious thoughts for anything that crosses our path. We also looked at the fact that as we become dependent upon God for all things - as we seek Him first in all things - then He shall guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. In other words it is God who will empower us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and it is God who will empower us to bring every thought

captive to His Word. This is a revelation which EVERY child of God must have, for in attempting to do it themselves in their "own" strength - and thus apart from a perfect obedience and consecration - they will most certainly fail to guard their heart with "all" diligence.

"TAKE HEED WHAT YOU HEAR"

Jesus said, "take heed what you hear", or, take heed what you "listen to". We need to be very sensitive to those things which we "allow" to influence and infiltrate our minds and hearts. We need to guard our hearts with all diligence through a continual exercising of our will towards the Word (will) of God and, as we step out in faith with the desire to do that, the Holy Spirit shall SURELY guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. As far as "our part" is concerned we need to make a deep and determined decision in our hearts to let our mind "dwell" only on those things which are of God. When one first begins their walk with Christ, it seems difficult to keep their eyes fixed on the things above, because in the past they have been so "enmeshed" in the world and its ways. Everything they looked at and heard: the news, the paper, the negative confession of all those they once fellowshiped with before Christ, "bombarded" their thought-life and caused them to find it very hard to keep their attention "fixed" (focused) on the Word of God. But as one begins to keep their eyes fixed on that Word and as they begin to separate ourselves to a continually greater degree from the "world" - as they literally "immerse" themselves in the Word of God they THEN came to that place wherein every thought was - and continues to be - brought captive to a perfect obedience and perfect conformity to the will of God at all times. Even in the "evil" which is perceived (seen and experienced) through one's five physical senses, they shall be "enabled to discern" which portion of God's Word applies to the situation - and is needed to rectify it. Through "believing" prayer we can indeed change any situation which is not in accordance with the will of God and this is God's aim in the renewal of our minds - that we might be pure vessels of His life and truth to a world infested with darkness and death, in order that the captives be set free.

THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS WHEN THERE IS ONLY ONE PATH!

There is no "shortcut" to walking in absolute faith and perfect obedience in

ALL things. If we are going to truly serve God in all that we do and if every word which proceeds out of our mouth is going to be in accordance with the will of God; and if we are going to "allow" the Anointing - which abides within us - to flow freely, then we are going to have to do things the way that the Father desires us to do them for there is no other way apart from Christ - the Anointed One and His Anointing - that the Father deems righteous! As one truly begins to seek out the Word of God concerning the life that they are called to live in this earth and as one truly consecrates themselves unto the Lord and begins to walk in perfect obedience - and thus truly represent Jesus Christ - THEN they shall understand clearly that God's commandments, and indeed every aspect of His will (Word), are for our greatest good ALWAYS and thus they shall lay down any sin and disobedience which has been retained - through fear and unbelief and the "self-desire" that it "fuels".

"BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND"

...."I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and accountable and perfect"....

Romans 12:1-2

The apostle Paul, in this passage, is urging us to present our bodies a "living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God". The Father wants us - spirit, soul and body - to serve Him and He has made the provision, in Christ, for us to walk in that. The only way that one is going to be able to do God's will in this earth is to be "transformed" by the renewing of their minds. Why? Because unless we are thinking the way that the Father is thinking and unless we are operating in His wisdom in ALL things, then we, in some way, shall be found misunderstanding or "mentally" ascending to His will and thus we shall find ourselves "misrepresenting" the Lord Jesus Christ. But as our minds are renewed, not only shall we carry out God's will, but, as we come into a perfect dependence upon the Word of God and the Holy Spirit then we shall see clearly that it is God's will to heal; it is God's will that we be well and prosperous and it is God's will for us to be free from ALL the bondage which came into this earth at the time of Adam's rebellion. Every word we speak and every action we take MUST be in perfect

accordance with the revealed knowledge of God's will for it is only in this way that the traditions and doctrines of men shall be removed from the church. As we walk in the light as Jesus Himself walked in the light, we shall go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit and those "spirits of darkness" (religious spirits) which have been working in the hearts and minds of men, shall repent or flee before us.

In John 17:17 Jesus said:

...."Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth"....

In this portion of scripture we see the key to this whole area of the renewing of our mind and that is, that the Word of God must be put first and foremost in our lives at all times and THEN that Word will supernaturally "set us apart" and keep us cleansed of our sins, and will expose any sin and lead us and keep us in the paths of righteousness.

THE INSTRUCTION OF THE FATHER IS FOR OUR GREATEST GOOD ALWAYS - WITHOUT EXCEPTION!

...."There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For those who are according to the flesh get their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit"....

Romans 8:1-5

We saw in Colossians 3:2 the command to set our mind on the things above and not on the things which have their source in the world. We saw in Philippians 4:8 the command to let our mind dwell on that which is true and honourable and right and pure and lovely and whatever is of a good repute. It is so important for every believer to have a clear revelation of the "solemnity" of God's Word and realize that when God gives us an instruction that it is for "our" greatest good always and thus we need to obey it. If we find ourselves in an area of the "flesh" -

walking apart from God's will - we must look closely at the things which we are hearing and the things which we are fixing our eyes on, for they are surely "infiltrating" our thought-life (and ultimately our heart) in some way whether we consciously realize it or not.

PEACE - THE TOTAL ASSURANCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN "WHOLLY RECONCILED TO THE FATHER IN EVERY WAY

...."For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace"....

(vs. 6)

If we are going to keep our thoughts fixed on the things of the flesh and on the world and its ways, then we are going to reap death in one of its many forms, but as we bring every thought captive to the Word of God and we come into a full dependence upon that Word at all times, then we are going to experience the life and peace of God superabundantly. We will experience that "absolute" life in which there is no fear, and no darkness or any other form of death and we shall experience the peace of God - a peace which passes all understanding, a peace in which we have the total assurance that we have been "wholly reconciled" to God in every way.

A POWERFUL ANOINTING ON THE "UNCOMPROMISED WORD" SHALL CAUSE A GREAT SHAKING IN THE MIDST OF GOD'S PEOPLE

...."Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so"....

(vs.7)

When we step out in the flesh to even a small degree, the seed (motivation) of that movement we have made is "rebellion" against God and points out "idolatry" in our lives! There are many children of God who are "too" willing to be presumptuous in their actions, without even taking a thought or consideration for the will of God and because they have remained in "fellowship" with the world their understanding has been darkened to the point wherein they do not realize the seriousness of their sin - or for that matter that they are in sin at all. But in this last hour - because of the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit and because of the

powerful Anointing on the "uncompromised" Word which is being put forth through the apostles and prophets - many will definitely be "shaken" as they attempt to walk with their minds set on the things of the flesh. God is raising up a people, an army, who are "spotless and unblemished" before Him for, as the true children of God, we must all be found to be walking in Christ and doing "nothing" apart from the Spirit of God who dwells within us.

WALK BY THE SPIRIT AND YOU WILL NOT CARRY OUT THE DESIRE OF THE FLESH

...."Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him"....

(vs. 8-9)

We are born-again children of God and we have the Holy Spirit, but each one of us needs to have the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) so that we come under His control and thus operate in His power in ALL things. The Word of God states in Galatians 5:16 "walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh", it does not say do not carry out the lusts of the flesh then you shall walk by the Spirit. To one who has the desire within them to strive in their own strength in the carrying out of their service to God, they will always take the approach "I will stop doing the things of the flesh and then I shall be able to walk by the Holy Spirit", but those who truly love God, and thus seek to be empowered by Him in all things, shall walk in obedience to those first "simple" instructions given by the Holy Spirit and THEN they shall see clearly that they are empowered to walk above the lusts of the flesh. The secret to walking above the lusts of the flesh is to draw near to the Word of God and abide in that Word at all times, thereby enabling us to walk by the Spirit in perfect obedience and not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. It is as we act in perfect obedience, moment to moment, that we replace the reciprocal action of the flesh in that moment which Satan is attempting to pressure us to act on. We need to get our priorities straight, for if we attempt to discern anything through the mind of the flesh rather than by the Spirit of God, then we shall always get it "backwards". In this last hour, as the absoluteness of God is revealed to the hearts of His children, everything that is not of God shall be seen to be exactly the opposite, and thus contrary, to His will. The words that Jesus spoke shall ring true in the hearts of those who rebel against Him.

Jesus said, "He who is not for Me is against Me" and it is in this way we shall once again be able to distinguish between the righteous and the unrighteous, between those who serve God and those who do not serve Him (Malachi 3:18). From this great refining process the spotless Bride of Christ shall arise in the earth and take the fulness of the authority which has been given her in Christ.

"SLAVES" OF OBEDIENCE VS. "SLAVES" OF SIN

...."Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"....

Romans 6:16

All these principles which we are talking about and all these scriptures we are dealing with are designed to "paint the picture" in the spirit of the believer of the importance of coming into the "full" realization of what the true Christian life is. We need to have our minds renewed and the only way that our minds are going to be renewed is to be separated from the world - separated from all that is of Satan (in heart attachment) and separated unto all that proceeds forth from God. There are always two steps found in the consecration of the individual believer: one, is the separation from the world and two is the separation unto the Word of God. This is an absolute revelation that every believer must have burning in their hearts. Any believer who acts on their own, that is, sows to the flesh, immediately leaves the authority of the Word and comes directly under the control of Satan. Every person in the earth is either being controlled by God through obedience to His Word or by Satan, through disobedience to that Word! From this statement we can see clearly that we must have God's Word abiding in our hearts. We need to walk in ALL the light that we have at ALL times, and we need to know and be assured in our hearts that we are walking in the will of God and that we are not misrepresenting Jesus Christ in any way. The only way that one is able to come into the "full" assurance of this is to have their minds renewed to such a great degree that they will operate spontaneously in perfect accordance with the thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart and understand all things in light of His will. It is written that the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit and as we continue on in the Word, that love is shed abroad in our hearts to a continually greater degree. We know that love never fails and we also know that love understands all things, so therefore to the degree that we allow ourselves to

have the Word of God "assimilated" into our being (spirit, soul and body) it is to that degree that we are able to walk in the full assurance of our "perfect representation" of Jesus Christ - knowing that we are accomplishing the will of God in all that we do.

"WHATEVER IS NOT FROM FAITH IS SIN"

Every believer must realize that God has made the Provision for us to walk in perfect obedience through the exercising of faith in Him in all that we do. It is written in Romans 14:23b that "whatever is not from faith is sin" and we must know that God has made the provision for us to walk in an "absolute faith" at all times. As we go out into the world, we have the opportunity to exercise faith in everything we do and we will choose either the wisdom (Word) of God or our own understanding (the wisdom of this world), but as we get a continually deeper revelation and our minds are constantly being renewed through the Word of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit, then we shall be enabled to walk above error and walk in perfect accuracy. After all, the sole reason why we (the Church) are still in the earth is to fulfil the ministry of Jesus and how can we fulfil the ministry of Jesus if we do not have the same attitude as He did in our hearts (Philippians 2:3-8)? The answer is, we cannot! This is why we must continue daily to put the principles of God into action in our lives through our faith in His Word and place our total trust and reliance upon Him, for God is faithful and what He has called us to do He shall also bring to pass in our lives (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

BRINGING EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE TO THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD IS THE KEY TO ALLOWING THE FULNESS OF THE ANOINTING TO FLOW THROUGH US

...."For though we walk in the flesh, we do not walk according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"....

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Even though we walk in a physical body in this earth we do not war according to our old nature - or through ANY dependence upon our own

understanding. We must be those who destroy speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the "true" knowledge of God's Word - and not just as these "speculations" or "lofty things" apply to our own lives, but also in every circumstance which crosses our path. By the words we speak through the Anointing, that abides within us, we are destroying speculations and everything which seeks to exalt itself above the Word of God (the Truth). Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (the Word of God) is the key to allowing the fulness of the Anointing to flow through us because, as we are emptied of our own plans and seek only to do God's will, we allow the thoughts and intentions of God's heart to be revealed through the words which we speak by the unction of the Holy Spirit - and thus anything which raises itself up against God (indeed everything in the world attempts to raise itself above God's Word) is brought into the light and consumed by the fire of God's presence.

EVERY WORD WE SPEAK SHOULD BE A GREAT AND POWERFUL LIGHT SHINING INTO THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF ALL THOSE WHO CROSS OUR PATH

As we seek continually to walk in the fulness of the calling upon our lives we shall find that "the world" hates Jesus and we shall also come to the full realization that greater is He that resides within us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4). As we go forth, seeking only to fulfil the ministry of Jesus we will destroy the strongholds of Satan in the hearts and minds of men. Every word we speak should be a great and powerful light shining into the hearts and minds of men and women and children - exposing sin and casting down any "preconceived notions" which are not in accordance with the Word (will) of God. We are here in this earth to fulfil the ministry of Jesus and to do what Jesus calls us to do - no longer living in any way for ourselves but for the One we serve. Every child of God needs to have this attitude within themselves and that is that they want "nothing" for themselves but "everything" for the Lord. As the believer replaces every thought which has its source in "darkened wisdom" with the wisdom of God - at first this will seem like an "arduous" task - they shall surely come to the place, through perseverance, wherein Satan shall no longer have any control over them.

IF WE DO NOT TAKE THE STEPS TO DRAW NEARER TO GOD THEN WE SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO RESIST SATAN AND HIS SCHEMES

Every step we take which causes us to draw nearer to God causes us to put up that much stronger a resistance against Satan and his schemes. If we do not take the steps to draw nearer to God then we shall not be able to resist Satan and his schemes and we shall indeed fall prey to the selfish lusts of our own flesh. And if we do not bring our "every thought" captive to the Word of God then we shall surely be found relying on things which are apart from that Word and thus, we shall surely be found placing our faith in the author of death and destruction, rather than the Author of life. So again, we need to have an absolute revelation of the need for the renewal of our minds and we must continue to bring every thought captive to the Word of God at all costs to ourselves. For as we diligently seek to do this, the Anointing, which abides within us, shall reveal to our hearts when something is not of God (Hebrews 4:12). As we continually replace the lies of Satan with the "exact" (revealed) truth of God's Word, then we shall no longer find ourselves believing in the traditions and the doctrines of men - which up until this time, have been readily accepted as truth by many children of God - and we shall begin to see clearly the true will of God for the people of this earth and (in many cases for the first time) the essence of the true Christian life. As we continually "confess" the Word of God in place of the "lying" thoughts which proceed forth from the fallen nature of man (Satan), the words which we speak we shall come to believe in our hearts and thus the power of God shall cause that word to become a "reality" in our own experience. Again, as the believer diligently practices bringing every thought captive to the Word of God, they will be delivered from any and every grip or stronghold which Satan has in them and they shall be "renewed" to the fact that all authority in Heaven and on earth belongs to them in Christ and that they have been given authority over all the power of the Evil One and they shall be set free!

WE MUST KNOW AND HAVE EXPERIENCED THE "LIVING CHRIST"

...."The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart"....

Hebrews 4:12

Every believer must have a deep revelation of the fact that the Word of God is the most powerful force (John 1:14) in this whole universe. Before one will truly draw near to the Word of God in the way in which they need to, they must believe that God is and that he is a rewarder of all those who seek Him. We must know and have experienced the "living" Christ. There are many children of God walking around who act as if Jesus is still dead and thus they treat Him as a "story-book figure" who lived some two-thousand years ago. As one gains a deeper revelation of the fact that the Word is indeed living and active and, as they fill their hearts with that Word, then that Word is able to divide within them the things which are of the S(s)pirit and those things which are of the soul and they shall be "renewed" continually to the point where they are able to discern between what is truly good (righteous) and what is truly evil (unrighteous), but to do this one must make a "quality decision" to draw near to God and resist Satan, for it is certain that he will try everything in his power to keep us separated from the Word of God - because he knows that the indwelling Word will keep us separate from sin and keep us separate from any fear which might attempt to arise within us. In other words, the Word of God will separate us from anything which Satan is able to use against us and will in turn empower us to wage war against him and his forces.

IT IS ONLY "SELFISHNESS" THAT WILL CAUSE ONE TO "MAINTAIN" FEAR

The provision which God has made for us to be renewed in our mind is simple, but without diligence in our obedience towards God and His Word, then "ground" shall remain within us for Satan to influence our lives in some way, and it is certain that that "influence" shall prevent us from fulfilling God's will for our lives and ministries. Therefore, to the degree that one truly loves God and seeks to obey Him, it is to that degree that Satan will be removed from their lives. One can in no way blame Satan or God for their bondage, but only their own impure motivation of heart towards the Father due to their failure to make His Word the "top priority" in their lives. It is only "selfishness" that will cause one to "maintain" fear and thus hinder the Anointing which abides within them. Once again, the importance of having a deep revelation of the fact that we have not been given a spirit of fear, but a Spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7) must be indelibly written on the heart of all those who would truly serve God. We shall choose which "spirit" we shall be controlled by! As we draw

near to God and abide in His Word any thought which proceeds forth from the old nature shall be exposed and shown for what it is and God will, in turn, lead us into, and renew us to, the deepest thoughts and intentions of His heart, and this is how we become conformed to the image of "His dear Son"; and this is how we are empowered to have the same attitude in us as is in Jesus; and this is how we live the life of the Cross and allow the Anointing of God to flow through us unhindered!

WE NEED TO PUT THE FATHER'S PRIORITIES FIRST IN OUR LIVES!

...."You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind (both its inclination and its character) is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You and hopes confidently in You. So trust in the Lord - commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him - forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting rock -the rock of ages"

Isaiah 26:3-4 Amplified Translation

As we set our minds on the things above and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus; as we bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ; and as we love the Lord our God with our whole hearts; the Father will guard us and keep us through the Anointing which abides within us. And through the entire provision which has been made for us in Christ He will keep us in perfect and continual peace and we shall have the constant assurance that we are in "the palm of His hand" - and ALL of our security shall be found in Him. As the child of God is transformed by the renewing of their mind and as the thoughts and intentions of God's heart are revealed to their heart - to a continually deeper degree with each passing day - they are then able to understand the wonderful provision that has been made for them to walk in this earth and that one shall experience the fulness of their salvation (inheritance). For the first time in their lives many shall begin to do the "works" of God and walk in His will and represent the Lord Jesus Christ "perfectly". We need to put God's priorities first! Many people seek to have the power of God working in their lives in order to do the "greater works" which Jesus said we would do (John 14:12), but they do not realize that they must first remove all those things from their lives (impure motivations) which are a hindrance to the flow of the Holy Spirit within them.

WITHOUT A DEEP CONSECRATION TO THE WORD OF GOD ONE CANNOT HAVE THE POWER OF GOD WORKING "EFFECTIVELY" IN THEIR LIFE AND MINISTRY - MAKE THE FIRM DECISION TO BRING "EVERY" THOUGHT CAPTIVE!

They need to understand that without a deep consecration to the Word of God they cannot have the power of God working "effectively" in their lives or in the lives of others through them. If one continues to "fellowship" with the world and thus "maintains" the desire to do things apart from God, they will shut off the flow of the Holy Spirit through them and they shall not be enabled to administer the Life of God and the Wisdom of God to all those who cross their path. So as we make the firm decision to bring every thought captive to the Word of God, it is then that we are on the road to having all ground for fear removed from us and we shall begin to operate in absolute faith at all times. And as we release our faith on the words which have proceeded forth from our mouth by the unction of the Holy Spirit, then the anointing which is upon those words shall cause the Life of God to be manifested in the earth and all these things shall surely lead us into the "reality" of the spotless and unblemished Church of Jesus Christ, a Church that truly represents Him in all Her ways - proclaiming the will of the Father in all that She says and does.

Amen