

## CHAPTER 7

### **"BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND"**

**"THEY HAD ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO STRAY AWAY FROM THE WORD (WILL) OF GOD INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD AND ITS WAYS"**

...."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 acceptable and perfect...."

Romans 12:1-2

...."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....for they sow the wind and they reap the whirl wind. The standing grain has no heads, it yields no grain. Should it yield, strangers would swallow it up"....

Hosea 8:1-3,7

As the Lord spoke this ominous warning to His people, through the prophet Hosea, He was addressing a problem which - throughout the ages - has repeated itself over and over again in the midst of God's people. They had "allowed" themselves to stray away from the Word of God into relationship with the world and its ways, and because of this the enemy (Satan) was able to continually attack the people of God to steal, kill or destroy in their midst.

**"THE BORN AGAIN CHILD OF GOD WAS NEVER MEANT TO FUNCTION IN THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDING"**

In this last hour the trumpet has once again been raised to the lips of those who serve God from a pure heart. Over the nearly two thousand years since the day of Pentecost Satan has attempted to feed small dosages of his insidious lies into the church in order to deceive Christians into relying on (exercising faith in) their own

understanding - that is to say, the flesh. Any part of the child of God's "understanding" which does not have as its source, the revealed knowledge of God's Word - that is, the knowledge of God's Word "revealed" to them by the Holy Spirit - is based on the darkened wisdom of the "world" system. The born-again child of God was NEVER meant to function in their own understanding, but rather to be renewed in their "thinking" to the living Word of God - in order that by the Holy Spirit they might understand and see ALL things according to the wisdom of God (Proverbs 3:5) (Proverbs 28:5).

**"TO THE DEGREE ONE PLACES THE WORD OF GOD AS THEIR TOP PRIORITY, IT IS TO THAT VERY SAME DEGREE THIS PROCESS OF THE RENEWAL OF THE MIND WILL MANIFEST ITSELF IN THEIR LIVES"**

For too long the church - as a whole - has "allowed" themselves to be dictated to and influenced by the world! It is certain that the time has come for us, as children of God, to forsake ANY worldly ways and live by the Word of God alone - seeking diligently to be led by the Spirit in ALL things. The first and foremost step for EVERY believer must be for them to base their entire lives upon the "revealed" Word of God! In doing this, their mind and their thinking will begin to conform to the Word (Will) of God rather than to the wisdom of this world - and the self-desire that it both sustains and fuels. To the degree one places the Word of God as their top priority, it is to that very same degree this process of the "renewal" of the mind will manifest itself in their lives. The believer who truly loves God will, ultimately, have to separate themselves from everything which would hinder their spiritual growth - in order to walk in the "fulness" of the Father's perfect will for their life. This takes a true and deep repentance (change of heart) and a revelation of the Father's love - for one does not give up what one "loves" (lusts after) unless it is superseded by a greater love.

**CAN THERE BE ANY DOUBT AS TO WHAT WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO?**

In Luke 10:27 the Word of God states:

...."You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself"....

From this passage we can clearly see the "absoluteness" of our calling and, therefore, we must put ourselves in the position - in obedience to the will of the Father - to be trained and taught by the Holy Spirit in ALL things - "divinely" prepared for every good (righteous) work. It must be clearly understood by every Christian that a "good work" is not something that we "think" is in accordance with the will of God. It is a work which initiates in the heart of the Father and is "revealed" to us by the Holy Spirit in our spirit. For too long many of God's children have "allowed" themselves to be deceived into continually sowing to the flesh - as far as their spiritual service is concerned. Because of this, the Evil One continually controls and neutralizes their spiritual effectiveness as they continue to lean upon their own understanding (Jeremiah 1:16) (2 Timothy 1:9). It is time for EVERY true believer to judge themselves in light of God's Word and begin to conform themselves to who the Bible says they are (in Christ). Gaining a revelation of one's glorious inheritance will break down - and eliminate (bring to nothing) - ANY influence that the spirit of the world has had in their lives, and they shall be found serving God from a pure heart (2 Timothy 2:21-22).

**"IF ONE TRULY LOVES GOD THEN THEY WILL CONTINUALLY SEEK OUT HIS WORD (WISDOM) AND ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN ALL OF THEIR WAYS AND CIRCUMSTANCES"**

As we read in Luke 10:27 we must love the Lord our God with ALL of our heart. How then do we do this? Jesus said in John 14:15:

...."If you love Me you will keep My commandments"....

Therefore, it is quite clear that we must "know" what those commandments are if we are going to keep them! It is for this reason that if one truly loves God then they will continually seek out His Word (wisdom) and acknowledge Him in ALL of their ways and circumstances - rather than leaning upon their own understanding. As the believer continually "practices" this habit of bringing every thought captive to the Word of God, their mind will be gloriously transformed and renewed and they shall begin to discern ALL things spiritually - and with perfect accuracy.

**"IT IS THROUGH THE MIND (THOUGHT-LIFE) THAT THE EVIL ONE CONTINUALLY ATTEMPTS TO KEEP THE CHILDREN OF GOD IN BONDAGE"**

As long as the child of God is inclined to lean upon - and, thus, exercise - the "flesh" they will not be able to recognize their Enemy - who will continually attempt to hide behind the mask of flesh and blood, causing them to keep their "focus" off of him, and on their physical circumstances and their natural emotions. It is through this avenue of deception that the Evil One is able to continually neutralize the believer's effectiveness against himself. It is through the "mind" (thought-life) that the Evil One continually attempts to keep the children of God in bondage, therefore, one must come to see clearly the importance of bringing "every" thought captive to a perfect obedience (revelation of the Father's will) in Christ. In these most glorious days we must whole-heartedly seek to present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice as well - as allow ourselves to be transformed by the renewing of our minds - for our success or failure depends upon our diligence in this area!

**"IT IS BOTH A STRANGE AND TRAGIC THING IN THE EYES OF THE FATHER THAT MANY OF HIS CHILDREN ARE STILL SUFFERING UNDER THE BONDAGE OF THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH"**

In Proverbs 8:13 (Amplified Translation) the Word of God states:

..."The reverent fear and worshipful awe of the Lord includes the hatred of evil. Pride, arrogance, the evil way, and perverted and twisted speech I hate"....

From this scripture we can see two things: first we can see clearly the disdain which the Father has for anything which is a manifestation of evil and, secondly, we can see the need to remove ourselves from any way which would cause us to lean on our own understanding rather than on the wisdom of God. Because many children of God have, for the most part, failed to obey the commandment of God to be separated from "heart-fellowship" with the world (Romans 12:2) (James 4:4), they have "allowed" themselves to be lured into a position outside the covenants of promise that they have with the Father, in Christ - and there is great danger in this! It was exactly this situation that the Spirit of God was speaking of in Hosea 8:1. In this last hour many have "transgressed" the covenant and rebelled against the Word of God - thereby "allowing" Satan and his forces to set them up for a fall. It is both a strange and tragic thing in the eyes of the Father that many of His children are still suffering under the bondage of the law of sin and death when, in reality, all this time (the last nearly two thousand years) they have been redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb (Galatians 3:13)!

**"HOW EASILY WORDS WHICH ARE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRUTH FLOW FORTH FROM THE MOUTHS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW THE FATHER INTIMATELY"**

How much the heavenly Father loves each one of His children, and how often He is misunderstood by those who "mentally ascend" to His love - basing all on "notions" which proceed from their own darkened understanding. How blessed is the one who seeks His face in all things for they shall surely find and experience the loving and tender heart of the Father towards them. Often He has been maligned as a cruel and difficult Father who does not meet the needs of His children or one who remains silent in the face of His children's adversity. These are lies direct from the pit of Hell - and should be treated as such! How easily words which are not in accordance with the Truth flow forth from the mouths of those who do not "know" the Father intimately, but on the other hand how the praises flow forth from the hearts of those who have experienced the richness of His tender love. As long as the child of God holds onto a distorted or perverted image of the Heavenly Father they will not open their hearts wide to Him nor will they trust Him to meet their needs (spirit, soul and body) - and because of this they will continue to lean upon their own understanding in an effort to sustain themselves. As the believer is faithful to meditate upon the Word of God, all things concerning the perfect character of the Father that they need to know will be revealed to them by the Spirit of God and they, in beginning to fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will draw ever closer to the things of God and will experience the fulness of God they were meant to experience in Christ (Ephesians 3:14-21).

**"WE NEED TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO CAUSE US TO PRESENT OUR BODIES AS A HOLY AND LIVING SACRIFICE"**

In reading Romans 12:1-2 we see that we are urged to present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice unto God.

**The Amplified Translation states:**

..."Make a decisive dedication of your bodies - presenting all your members and faculties - as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world -this age, fashioned after and adapted to its external,

superficial customs but be transformed (changed) by the entire renewal of your mind"....

We need to take whatever steps are necessary (it is different for every believer) to cause us to present our bodies as a holy and living sacrifice. The moment we are born again our re-born spirit begins to exert itself into the position of authority it rightfully has over our soul and body, but because we are not familiar with the Word of God at that point (and because too often we ignore feeding our spirit man with spiritual food [the Word of God]) the soul (mind, will and emotions) attempts to override our spirit and this causes us to lean towards our "own" understanding rather than the wisdom of God.

### **"THERE IS A GREAT DANGER IN NOT PLACING THE WORD OF GOD FIRST PLACE IN OUR LIVES"**

There is a great danger in not placing the Word of God first place in our lives - no matter where we are in our walk! The moment the child of God begins to incline themselves towards any area of "understanding" that is apart from the Word of God, the "soul-life" (psyche) begins to surface and gain momentum. It is only by continually saturating our inner man with the Word of God that it becomes strong - thus enabling it to be constantly in its rightful position of authority over the soul and body - in order that, by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, it might continually dictate the ways and thoughts of God to our soul and body - manifesting in a perfect service unto Him. This is the Father's desire for each of His children.

### **"HOW GREAT IS THE BLESSING OF THE RENEWED MIND AND THE DISCIPLINED BODY!"**

It must be clearly understood that to the degree we apply ourselves diligently to the Word of God, it is to that exact degree we will reap the benefits of God's goodness in our lives (Mark 4:24-25) (Proverbs 4:20-27). Until the soul and the body are brought into submission to the spirit of the man - on a continual basis - it must be clearly understood that they are of no ETERNAL use in our walk with God. The spirit, soul and body of every child of God are meant to function in fellowship and harmony with the "revealed" Word of God at ALL times. How great is the blessing of the renewed mind and the "disciplined" body (spiritually renewed and made fit for service taking its full part in the doing of God's perfect will for our lives)! As we are

transformed and renewed by the Word of God we become "fit vessels" of the life of God - which THEN flows forth superabundantly from deep within our inner man. It is when the life (love, light etc.) of God is "enabled" to manifest itself freely throughout our entire being that rivers (torrents) of living water shall flow forth upon all those who cross our path (John 7:38).

### **THE PROCESS OF "ASSIMILATION"**

One must realize that it is the "free will" of the child of God that is the deciding factor in putting spiritual law into effect. It is by our own choice - in every facet of our walks - that we put into motion the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus or the law of sin and death in any given moment. A man of God once defined Christianity as "a series of decisions". As one diligently partakes of the process of "spiritual assimilation" by feeding upon the Word of God, these "decisions" THEN become spontaneous - and automatically roll up from the midst of the deepest recesses our heart (spirits) - divinely empowering us in every way. As the child of God first begins this process of "assimilation" it may appear to be a methodical and a dry process at times, but as one continually perseveres against the Evil One and his "attempts" to hinder this process through persecution - a persecution which will SURELY arise because they have given the Word the proper place in their life (Mark 4:14-20) - they will begin to experience the abundant joy which arises mightily in the hearts of all those who are seeking first and foremost to fellowship with the Father and His Word.

**"IF THE CHILD OF GOD IS NOT SEEKING THE LORD FROM THE POSITION OF A HEART WHOLLY GIVEN THEN, TO A DEGREE, THEY HAVE ALREADY ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE DECEIVED BY THE EVIL ONE"**

In 2 John:7-9 the Word of God states:

..."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 (spirit of). Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we (you) 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"....

Many Christians are concerned to a great degree about being deceived by every "wind of doctrine" which they encounter in their path, but if the child of God is not seeking the Lord with a whole heart then, to a degree, they have already "allowed" themselves to be deceived by the Evil One.

**"IT IS ALSO AT THIS POINT THAT THEY WILL TRULY BECOME TEACHABLE"**

In John 14:23-24 Jesus said:

..."If anyone loves Me he will keep My Word and My Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our abode with him. He who does not love me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's Who sent Me"....

Previously in verse 21 Jesus had said:

..."he who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and disclose myself to him"....

It is only as the child of God makes a "quality decision" to forsake all of the unrighteous habits of sin and disobedience which have formed in their life - due to fellowship with, and conformation to, the "world" - that they will begin to set their will to obey the commandments found in the Word of God above ALL else - and at ALL cost to themselves. It is also at this point that they will truly become teachable and, thus, they will come to know the truth because they will be found abiding (dwelling) in the Word of God. In coming to a knowledge of the truth they will indeed be set free (John 8:31-32) from all bondage to fear, and they will be led into all truth by the Holy Spirit - day in and day out.

**"ONCE THE BELIEVER HAS ESTABLISHED CLEARLY IN THEIR THINKING THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - AS TEACHER (John 14:26), THEY WILL NO LONGER RELY UPON THEIR FORMER TENDENCY TO MENTALLY ASCEND TO THE WORD OF GOD"**

Once the believer has established clearly in their thinking the ministry of the Holy Spirit - as Teacher (John 14:26), they will no longer rely upon their former tendency to "mentally ascend" to the Word of God, but rather they will open their heart wide to receive the revelation knowledge (continually) that they need to fulfil their ministry upon this earth and successfully overcome every scheme of Satan and his forces. Rather than attempting to seek everything all at one time pertaining to the Word (Will) of God they will - by faith - allow themselves to be led and nourished to perfection by the Spirit of God alone - moment to moment. It is only the Father who truly knows our needs pertaining to the fulness of His glorious plan for our life and ministry, and He will meet them perfectly in His perfection - as we "allow" Him to. I say again, those who are truly seeking to live in godly wisdom and understanding and who thus have a heart-desire to rely on God first in all things, will never stumble or be led astray for long for in their continued acknowledgement of the Father and His Word they shall surely know when they even begin to depart from the path of righteousness (Proverbs 3:5-8).

**"IT IS FROM THIS PLACE OF A CONTINUED EMPTINESS (SELF-DENIAL) THAT THE CHILD OF GOD WILL BE UNLEASHED IN A CAPACITY THEY NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE - BASED ON THEIR FORMER THOUGHTS AND NOTIONS"**

As one is faithful to do those things that will hasten the renewing of their mind they will have the firm hope of the Gospel as the "anchor of their souls", and they will enter into a place wherein they are no longer in bondage to fear in any way. For in their heart they will have a "burning" (active) revelation of the fact that the Father did not give them a spirit of fear, but a Spirit of power and love and a "sound mind". As one partakes of and walks in the blessing of a sound mind (discipline) the Evil One will not have any ground within them from which to work. It from this place of a continued "emptiness" (self-denial) that the child of God will be unleashed in a capacity they never thought possible - based on their former thoughts and notions. They will begin see themselves, and all those around them, through the eyes of the Father on a continual basis (2 Corinthians 5:16).

**"HOW GLORIOUS IS THE DAY WHEN THE CHILD OF GOD SEES CLEARLY THE TRUTH THAT THEIR STRUGGLE (BATTLE) IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD!"**

How glorious is the day when the child of God sees clearly the truth that their struggle is not against "flesh and blood" (Ephesians 6:12). I must say with great emphasis that it is precisely at this point that the Evil One will attempt - in desperate final attempt - to keep the child of God in darkness. When the child of God has had this truth revealed to their heart they will immediately turn on their true enemy - which is Satan and his forces - and in doing this they will discover the "thoroughness" of the Evil One's defeat at Calvary. They will realize also that they have been delegated by Jesus to tread upon "serpents and scorpions", and that they have been given authority over "all" the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19) (1 John 3:8). It is from this place of absolute faith and authority - and this place alone - that the Glorious Church will fulfill her destiny in the earth!

**"IT IS THE FATHER'S DESIRE FOR EACH OF HIS CHILDREN TO FELLOWSHIP WITH, AND SERVE, HIM IN SIMPLICITY AND PURITY OF DEVOTION TO CHRIST"**

In 2 Corinthians 11:3 the Word of God states:

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

It is the Father's desire for each of his children to fellowship with, and serve, Him in simplicity and purity of devotion to (in) Christ - and as we have seen in earlier writings, it is the "mind" that is the bridge to this becoming a reality in our physical life and existence. With each passing moment we are called on to destroy speculations and every lofty thing which exalts itself above the Word of God (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). As we practice this habit of looking at and discerning all things in light of the Word of God, our senses - because of this diligent practice - will become trained to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). How effective is the child of God - who is walking in the light of this revelation - against the tactics and the strongholds of the Evil One! Instead of being controlled in any way by Satan to carry out his evil purposes the child of

God will control and direct him in all circumstances and will effectively go about their business of setting free the captives and breaking every yoke (Isaiah 58:6).

**"IF WE WILL TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO RESIST SATAN CONTINUALLY THEN HE WILL BE FORCED INTO FLEEING FROM US AT EVERY TURN"**

In James 4:7 the Word of God states:

..."resist the devil and he will flee from you"....

From this statement one can see clearly that if we will take the steps necessary to resist Satan continually (Ephesians 6:10-18) THEN he will be forced into fleeing from us at EVERY turn. It is for this reason that we are called to seek first the Kingdom rather than the world and its ways (the lust of the flesh-the pride of life), and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and developer of our faith, rather than on the Evil One and his lies. For in being faithful and obedient to these instructions the child of God will soon be walking in the fulness of their authority - having appropriated through an absolute faith the eternal victory of the Lord Jesus Christ over Satan at Calvary - and they will have their feet placed firmly on the throat of the Evil One at every turn.

**"THE FATHER DESIRES HIS CHILDREN TO INCLINE THEIR HEART TO HIM FIRST IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE OF THEIR LIVES."**

As our mind is renewed by the Word of God daily, our choice of leaning on God's "understanding" (the Spirit of wisdom and revelation) rather than our "own" (the mind of the flesh) becomes clear and spontaneous in our walk. As we place our "full reliance" on the Holy Spirit, as Teacher, to reveal the Word of God to our heart - and as we always remain open to be taught - THEN, as we walk experientially through the various tests of faith - and the temptations which are from the Evil One (James 1:12- 15) that will surely come - we will find that God indeed is watching over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12) on our behalf! The Father desires His children to incline their heart to Him first in every circumstance of their lives. It as the child of God puts into motion the steps that

will cause their mind to be renewed by the Word of God (by drawing near to Him) that this "immediate" dependence upon (inclination towards) the Father and His Word will become instant and constant - thus causing the believer to succeed (prosper) in every area of their walk.

**"AS ONE COMES TO ABIDE IN THE WORD OF GOD THEY WILL DEVELOP A KEEN SPIRITUAL EAR"**

This is exactly how one builds their house upon the "rock" which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 7:24-27. As one comes to abide in the Word of God they will develop a keen spiritual ear and will begin to hear the still, small voice clearly. It is in this area of their walk that many believers fall short of walking in the perfect will of the Father, and find themselves frustrated to a degree because of their "apparent" inability to hear the voice of the Spirit. If the child of God seeks to hear the voice of God then they must place the Word of God in His rightful position - thus giving Him top priority in every facet of their life and ministry. There is no magic pattern or formula to follow, but rather a pure and simple obedience to the "command" to meditate in the Word of God day and night (Joshua 1:5-8), and to bring every thought captive to a perfect obedience (2 Corinthians 10:5). It is certain that as the believer puts their priorities straight, their relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will develop into an intimate one, and this is precisely the position that the Father desires each one of His children to be in. It is certain that He would have us to walk in His light and His protection rather than in the darkness of this "world" but, as always, it remains our choice - and our choice alone!

**"TRUE KNOWLEDGE"**

In Colossians 3:9-10 the Word of God states:

..."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"....

In verse 10 it is written that the "new self" is being "renewed to a true knowledge". From this portion of the Word we see what this process of renewing will accomplish in the life of the believer. It is the Father's will for us to be

conformed to the image of His dear Son (Romans 8:29) - in order that we might live our lives in Christ, having our heart filled with the "true knowledge" (which can only be revealed to our heart by the Holy Spirit). 1 Corinthians 2:16 states, "we have the mind of Christ"! As the believer hungers for - and diligently pursues after - revealed knowledge they will indeed come to realize what the Father's purpose for the renewing of their mind is:

It is so that they, in all that they perceive and think, may do so through the mind of Christ rather than the darkened understanding of the Adamic nature - which sees ALL things through the darkness of this evil world and cannot comprehend God as He really is (Isaiah 55:8-9) (Ephesians 4:17- 24).

**"WE, AS CHILDREN OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS, HAVE BEEN PLACED BY HIM INTO A POSITION OF PRE-EMINENCE IN THIS EARTH"**

As one's life is completely based on the Rock of revealed knowledge they will indeed "rise above" the darkness and evil of this present world - and they will live out their life on this earth in the authority they have been given in Christ Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20) (Luke 10:19) (Mark 16:15-20). We, as children of God in Christ, have been placed by Him into a position of pre-eminence in this earth. Even in this late hour, this is a fact which has largely been ignored by many! But as more and more believers seek whole-heartedly the Holy Spirit as their "Teacher", and begin to make the Word of God their final authority - thus allowing their hearts and minds to be enlightened by it continually (for indeed the entrance of His Word produces light (Psalm 119:130) THEN they shall become the mighty light to the nations they were called to be, and the Body of Christ will go forth as a great and mighty army devastating the Evil One's strongholds at EVERY turn (Joel 2:1-1).

**"WE ARE THE ONES THAT CONTROL THE FINAL DECISION AS TO WHAT THE STATE OF OUR MIND WILL BE!"**

When the believer first makes the quality decision to put God's Word first and to walk in faith at ALL times, almost all that is attempted in faith will feel strange and uncomfortable to their flesh (soul and body). For the flesh is "geared" to its own way (Satan's way) in all things - having been deceived and

controlled by the Evil One for so long. But just as a computer can be re-programmed so too our minds can also be re-programmed (or renewed) by the Word of God. We are the ones that control the final decision as to what the state of our mind will be! We will operate in an absolute faith, "believing" that we have received the "mind of Christ", or we will remain "content" (through fear) - to lean upon our own understanding - and the "fruit" of our darkened words and actions will then become evident in our lives! For WHATEVER a man will sow that he will also reap and we know that the one who sows to the flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap life (Zoe) (Galatians 6:7-8) (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)!

**"AS THE BELIEVER PARTAKES OF THE DIVINE RENEWING (REFINING) PROCESS THEY WILL SOON FIND THAT THOSE THINGS WHICH HELD THEIR ATTENTION (IN THE WORLD) WILL FADE AWAY"**

It is extremely important for the child of God to forsake ALL of those things in their life which cause them to lean toward - or conform to - the world! For the failure to do so will SURELY move them from a position of receiving the blessings (empowerment) of God and into a position of danger outside the covenants of God - if they stubbornly persist in their folly. To serve the Lord fully we must make a concerted effort to remove "all" that would hinder our spiritual growth. As the believer partakes of the divine renewing (refining) process they will soon find that those things which held their attention (in the world) will fade away, and they will be replaced by the blessings of God - blessings and prosperity which belong to those who have given themselves wholly to His ways (Psalm 84:5,8-12). A good rule to follow is this: if something you hear is not true - in other words it does not line up with the Word of God - do not let it in and separate yourself from it! Jesus said in Mark 4:24 "Take heed what you listen to". As we diligently obey His words we will soon reach the point where we will reject and discard anything which would be a hindrance to the renewal process - thus facilitating our spiritual growth. What blessings our Heavenly Father has in store for those who seek Him with a pure heart in order to know Him and understand Him - for this is a pleasing thing to Him (Psalm 31:19-20).

**"AS THE BELIEVER STUDIES AND MEDITATES UPON GOD'S WORD MORE AND MORE, SATAN WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DECEIVE THEM INTO TAKING A THOUGHT WHICH ORIGINATED IN HIM"**

As the believer studies and meditates upon God's Word more and more, Satan will no longer be able to deceive them into "taking a thought" which originated in him because the believer will spontaneously discern that which is of God and that which is not of God. It is a glorious time in the life of the believer when the fear and "confusion" have lifted, and they are able to concentrate fully on the things of God - alert (sober) and never "allowing" themselves to be distracted in any way by the wiles of the Enemy. It is a goal that should be front and center in the life of EVERY Christian, and it is always worthwhile for that one to do whatever is necessary in any given moment in order to reach it. One is not able to describe adequately the blessings of the Spirit-filled, Spirit-led life, but it is certain that they are meant to be experienced by "every" believer, not just talked about!

... "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him but God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God"....

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

It is as the child of God puts away the things of the world and, for that matter, anything in their life that they have placed in a position above and before God (anything that constitutes idolatry), that they will be filled up to all the fulness of God and will walk in the abundant life which belongs to them in Christ (John 10:10).

**"WHEN ONE IS TRULY EMPOWERED BY LOVE TO, "BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING" THEN SATAN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP (HOLD) THEM IN ANY FORM OF BONDAGE"**

In Philippians 4:6-8 the Word of God states:

...."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 (understanding) shall guard your hearts and 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 (report). If there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things"...

I would strongly suggest, by the Spirit of God, that each believer study and meditate upon these verses, and allow the Spirit of God to reveal to their heart the truths enclosed therein! It is when one is truly empowered by love to, "be anxious for nothing" that Satan will not be able to keep (hold) them in ANY form of bondage once that believer refuses to receive (believe) "any" lying thought - lying thoughts which activate fear rather than faith. Their dependence will be on the Word of their Heavenly Father rather than on some "evil tiding" or "sudden fear", which the Evil One attempts to lure them off the exercising of their faith with. In this place of faith and diligence it is certain that their heart and mind will be guarded by the peace of God - a supernatural peace which transcends all "natural" circumstances and keeps the believer in the center of His perfect will - regardless of any scheme of the Evil One.

### **"THE KEY TO THE RENEWED MIND"**

In verse one Paul begins to sum up the whole letter and writes "finally, brethren, whatever is true, what ever is honourable, whatever is right"... and exhorts the believers at Philippi to let their minds dwell only on the things of God (for there is no good thing outside God). In stating these things Paul provides us with the "key" to the renewed mind. Quite simply put, the degree to which we control the "intake" of our minds to that which is in accordance with the Word of God, it is to that degree that our minds will be renewed. As was written before there is no "shortcut" to this process of renewal, but rather only a continual, determined desire and effort to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

## **"THE CARNAL MIND OF MAN CONTINUALLY SEEKS TO EXALT ITSELF ABOVE THE WORD (WILL) OF GOD"**

In Romans 8:5-9 the Word of God states:

...."those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 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 and 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"....

In this passage we see in verse 7 that it is written "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 and in Romans 7:18 Paul wrote:

...."For I know that nothing good dwells in me that is, in my flesh"....

It is very important for the believer to know that the "flesh" is hostile toward God and that it has nothing at all in common with Him. This is precisely why we are commanded in Proverbs 3:5-6 to trust the Lord with all of our heart and not lean on our own understanding. The reason why God is so adamant in this is simply because the fallen nature of man is the nature that the human race inherited from its "step-father" Satan at the time of Adam's high treason, and it was for this reason that Jesus came and paid the tremendous price to redeem us from the curse which befell mankind at that time. The whole topic of the "renewing" of our mind takes on even more importance when we view it in light of this. It is seen quite clearly that the carnal mind of man continually seeks to exalt itself above the Word (Will) of God (just as the Evil One himself attempted to do so long ago) - and continues to do so today. One can now see clearly that leaning on our own darkened understanding - or sowing to the flesh in any way - must reap darkness and death, for it is of Satan and he can only produce darkness and death in all that he has "touched".

## **"THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WELL ABLE TO BRING US TO THE PLACE WHERE GOD WOULD HAVE US - BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY (LOCATIONALLY)"**

In this most critical and glorious hour it is certain that every child of God must forsake any "worldly ties" and flee those things which would keep them in bondage to the Evil One in any way! Many still allow themselves to be vessels of the Evil One's lies and hate and it ought not be so! The hour is late and we must press on in the church to become of one mind - that mind being the mind of Christ. The Holy Spirit is well able to bring us to the place where God would have us - both spiritually and physically, so we must never "allow" ourselves to be discouraged by any "present state" of affairs. The call is simply to immerse ourselves in the Word of God - continually casting ALL of our care upon Him. In this hour the Holy Spirit's presence is greater in the earth than ever before and when any child of God truly applies themselves to walking in perfect obedience their spiritual growth will come at a more accelerated pace than ever before, and there will come a glorious deliverance - ultimately (in the fulness of time) - from whatever negative or adverse circumstance they may find themselves in.

### **"HEART-DECISION"**

In verse 9 Paul writes:

..."However you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit"....

and since we ourselves are indwelt by the Holy Spirit let us put our minds in accordance with the things of the Spirit and let us dwell in the life and peace we are promised. Is not the choice clear? Do you desire to live in the best your Heavenly Father has to offer - in Christ? These are questions which need to be answered in the heart of every believer - for the hour is late and the Evil One desires to keep them "neutralized". This is exactly why a quality decision must be made in the heart of the believer! For if it is a decision of the mind only then Satan will chip away at the thought until it is removed and replaced by the fear-filled thought he desires the child of God to act upon. But when it is a "heart-decision" then the believer will take the thought based on the Word of God and will persevere in that Word through corresponding words and actions until it is "established" in their heart. It is at this point that Hell itself could not move them

away from their decision!

**"IT MAY SEEM MORE ATTRACTIVE AND MORE COMFORTABLE FOR A TIME TO WALK BY SENSE-KNOWLEDGE, BUT IT CAN ONLY END UP REAPING CORRUPTION, DARKNESS AND DEATH IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO CONTINUE ON IN IT (CARNALITY)!"**

A good case in point is when you were born-again. Even if the Evil One side-tracked and led you astray for many years from the "fulness" of the Father's purpose, once you decided (in your heart) to make Jesus Christ the "Lord" of your life, no demon in Hell or Satan himself could stop you. One can clearly see from this the importance of basing their every decision upon the Word of God and then persevering in faith and obedience until it becomes revelation knowledge in their heart. As our lives are completely based on the Word of God, then we shall "allow" the Holy Spirit to be our teacher, and the aforementioned Word to be the final authority in our lives. Thus, our mind will be renewed by the continual influx of revealed (or exact) knowledge and the Gates of Hell will not be able to prevail against us in any way (Matthew 16:17). Many children of God (because their minds have not been renewed by the Word of God) have "allowed" themselves to remain in an area of carnality and, thus, they are deceived into thinking ("believing") that it is easier to walk in bondage to the law of sin and death (sowing to the flesh) than to walk by faith in "all" things. It may "seem" more attractive and more comfortable for a time to walk by "sense-knowledge", but it can only end up reaping corruption, darkness and death in the lives of those who continue on in it (carnality)!

### **"EACH WORD WE SPEAK"**

Many believers are walking in darkness in this area, but behold there is a great and bright light such as this world has never seen, fast approaching, for we are in the beginnings of the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit prophesied throughout the prophets (Joel 2) (Isaiah 33:13-16) (1 Peter 4:17) (Habakkuk 2:14), and judgement is truly upon the House of the Lord. It is time for every believer to consecrate themselves unto the Father, and separate themselves from any "fellowship" with anything outside of His Word. With each word we speak we choose Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings or Satan and his lies - and this is an absolute reality!

**"IT IS CLEAR THAT AS TIME PASSES IT IS MORE DANGEROUS WITH EACH PASSING DAY TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE IN ANY WAY, SHAPE OR FORM!"**

As I was meditating on the Word of God one day the Spirit of God revealed to me the application of Romans 6:16 to our own lives as Christians.

**It is written:**

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

**He said these words to me:**

"Any believer who "acts" on his own (rebellion) immediately leaves the authority of the Word and comes directly under Satan's "influence". Every person in this earth is either being controlled by Me, through obedience to My Word or by Satan, through disobedience to My Word."

How absolute the Word of God is in every way! If the believer chooses to do what they desire to do (self-desire) then they "allow" themselves to be held captive by the Evil One to do his will (2 Timothy 2:21-26) and will be used against their brothers and sisters in Christ in some way - even though they may not be conscious of it. From these things one can see how easy it is for Satan and his forces to cause strife (division) in and amongst those who are walking to "any degree" outside the Word of God. There is no excuse for us, as children of God, to be found outside of or apart from the Word at any time. It is clear that as time passes it is more dangerous with each passing day to remain outside the covenants of promise in any way, shape or form! As more and more believers come to the realization (revelation) of who they are in Christ the insidious lies which have plagued the church for nearly two thousand years will be removed from our midst and we shall indeed walk in the light as children of light (Ephesians 5:8) - without exception!

## **"THE DEFINITION OF A SOUND MIND"**

In 2 Timothy 1:7 the Word of God states:

..."God did not give to us a spirit of fear but a Spirit of power and love and of a sound mind".

The definition of a "sound mind" in spiritual terms is a mind which is entirely captivated by and given wholly to God in all things. In Isaiah 26:3 (Amplified Version) the Word of God states:

..."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"....

People of God, are we able to neglect so great a promise in the face of the turmoil which exists in this world? Are we able to neglect so great a promise in the face of the Love that was poured out for us at Calvary? Give the Word of God first place in your lives and forsake all that would only serve to keep you apart from the One who loved you and died for you in order that you might live!

Amen