

Growing in the Knowledge of God by  
Changing your Self Image into God's Image

What does the Word say:

1 Timothy 2:4 – God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Romans 12:2 – How your life is transformed – by the renewing of your mind.

Change your picture of yourself (your self image) into God's image of you. Conform it to what the Word says about you.

Change the way you see yourself, and you will change the way you are. Reprogram yourself according to the Word of God. This is the only way to be truly and really and permanently changed!

Being conformed to the Word in your actions is a result of being conformed to the Word in your thinking first. You must begin with the inward. As Jesus, said, cleanse first the inward and the outward also be clean (Matthew 23:25-26).

Colossians 3:10 – The new man is renewed in knowledge after the image of God.

Colossians 1:9-10 – Growing in the knowledge of God.

Ephesians 4:7-18 – God has given ministry gifts to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge...to a mature man, the measure of the stature which belong to the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be tossed about by every wind of doctrine – but grow up in all aspects into Him.

V. 22-23 - ...In reference to your former manner of life, lay aside the old self and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

and put on the new self which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

2 Peter 1:2-6 – *All we need* for life and godliness is provided through the knowledge of Him. We put them on by renewing our minds, by seeing what He has made us and acting accordingly. It is by the promises of God that we partake of the divine nature – who He has made us in Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 – As we see Him, we are transformed into His likeness (3 John 2).

James 1:22-24 – This man sees all the wonderful things the Bible says he has and can do, but passes right over them without applying them to himself. (It is strange, though, that he doesn't have any problem applying the negative things.)

What God has done in the Spirit is what we build on. We do not need to pray to God to make us what He has already made us. We need to renew our minds so that we begin to *really believe* we are what He says and then merely act like it. This is the walk of faith.

IF YOU WANT TO TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE, HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE THE WORD AND EXERCISE FAITH IN WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY DONE!

Practical Steps:

God changed me inwardly and gave me the Word to change myself outwardly. How?

- 1) STUDY the word to find out who and what you are in Him and how much He loves you.
- 2) MEDITATE on these things continually, regularly, over and over again.
- 3) ACT on them. Act like *you are* what the Word says you are.

The Christian life begins, continues and ends with faith – from faith from start to finish.

- 1) Romans 1:17 – Salvation is from faith to faith.
- 2) Colossians 2:6 – As you have received Him, so walk.
- 3) Galatians 3:1-3 – Begun in the Spirit, completed in the Spirit, receive through the hearing of faith (Romans 10:8-17).
- 4) Romans 5:17 – We live life victoriously through *accepting* His abundant grace and righteousness.
- 5) Philippians 2:12-13 – We cooperate with God in our growth.
- 6) Hebrews 3:14 (Phillips) – We continue to share in all that Christ has for us as long as we maintain the trust with which we began.
- 7) Romans 9:30-10:3 – Watch our you don't stumble over the stumbling stone and revert back to relying on what you achieve rather than what you believe.

#### Example of Israel

Hebrews 3:12-14, 18-19; 4:1-2, 9-11

V. 18-19 – disobeyed = disbelieved. They were not able to enter in because of their unbelief. If we are not entering the land of His abundant life, we should check up on ourselves to see if we are doing the same.

4:1-2 – The promise is for us also – of entering into rest and possessing our land. The message they heard was of no value to them. Why? Because they didn't mix it with faith.

V. 9-11 – Let's make every effort to enter that rest so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience (unbelief).

Let's look back to the Old Testament and see what the example was that we are not to follow.

Notice that what it came down to is that they did not believe God's promise about themselves nor did they believe that they could do what He told them to do.

#### Numbers 13-14

13:1-3 – The sending of the spies.

V. 17-20 – Their commission.

V. 27-28 – The evil report. The report was one of unbelief in God's promise.

V. 30 – The positive report – faith in the promises.

V. 31-33 – Continued evil report. They looked only at the natural and disregarded God's promises. V. 33 - ... "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

14:1-4 – The ten spies with the evil report started all of the people to grumbling. People feel safe following the majority report – but here as in most cases in spiritual matters, it will lead to trouble.

V. 6-9 – Joshua and Caleb reminded them of the promises of the Lord.

V. 10-11 – The whole assembly sided with the evil report and wanted to stone the others. The Lord spoke, "How long will they refuse to believe in me in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?"

V. 21-23, 26-30, 36-37 – The Lord's judgment. "I will do to you the very things I heard you say." The ones who spread the evil report died of a plague. The rest died in the wilderness.

V. 24, 38 – God’s reward for those who followed Him fully – they got what was promised – even if it took a while.

Deuteronomy 1:19-46 – another account of the same.

Hebrews 4:12-16 – God understands our weakness and temptation (to doubt as well as other things) – but He still expects us to believe and act on His Word.

Areas to Renew your Mind in:

In renewing our minds it is what Jesus has done and accomplished for us that we build on. Study the Epistles. Study what redemption includes and apply every bit of it to yourself.

If you will take certain passages in the Epistles, for instance, Ephesians 1-2 and Romans 8, and go over them again and again, get out many translations (Living, Phillips, Amplified have greatly helped me) and continue to meditate on the truths presented there until they penetrate your heart, you will find that your life will soon be different.

Also, study what God is like. Get to know Him, your faith in Him will grow, and many things in your life will change for the good.

Exodus 3:15 – This is His name forever. God’s names reveal who He is and what He is like.

Seven fold needs of man = seven-fold redemptive name of Jehovah.

All of these names He is to us. It is all fulfilled in Jesus.

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH – The Lord is Present (Ezekiel 48:35).

The Lord is ever present with me.

Matthew 28:20 – He is with us always on every occasion the same.

Hebrews 13:5 - ...I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down, nor relax my hold on you (Amp.)

Ephesians 2:13 – We have been brought near to God.

Deuteronomy 31:6, 8 – He will never leave nor forsake us, so we are not to fear or be discouraged.

JEHOVAH SHALOM – The Lord is my Peace (Judges 6:23-25).

The Lord is my peace. His desire is for me to enjoy His peace at all times.

John 14:27 – He left His peace with us.

Isaiah 53:5 – The chastisement for our peace was upon Him.

Colossians 1:20 – He made peace through His blood and reconciled us to Himself.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 – Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way.

Ephesians 2:14 – He Himself is our peace.

Romans 5:1 – We have been justified by faith and now have peace with God.

JEHOVAH RAAH – The Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 12:1).

The Lord is my shepherd and guide. Guidance is part of His redemption.

John 10:3-4, 10, 14 – He is our Shepherd and has promised to guide us. We as His sheep know His voice. When we follow Him, He leads us into abundant life not bondage.

Isaiah 48:17-18 – I am the Lord your God who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.

Romans 12:2 – His will is progressive. As we renew our minds and grow in knowledge, we live more and more of His will. Having guidance is just a small part of His will. His Word is His will. We live in His will more and more as we get His Word working in our lives.

3 John 2 – As you renew your mind to these things (as your soul prospers) and appropriate them into your life, you are gradually beginning to live His will in every area of life.

Psalms 119:105 – His Word is our guidance.

Have faith in the Lord that He is guiding you. Keep moving in the last clear direction you have gotten from the Lord (Proverbs 3:6; 16:9).

JEHOVAH JIREH – The Lord will Provide (Genesis 22:8).

The Lord is my Provider or Source.

Prosperity is part of redemption also. You can trace prosperity from Abraham through his sons through Israel to us as His present seed. It is very clear.

Philippians 4:19 – He supplies our every need.

Matthew 6:25-33 – He provides us with material blessings as we put Him first.

2 Corinthians 8:9 – He wants to bring you to the place where your own needs are sufficiently met so that you can give to every good work.

JEHOVAH NISSI – The Lord is our Banner (Exodus 17:5)

The Lord is our Banner or Victor or Captain.

The victory was won by Jesus and given to us in redemption. It is appropriated by faith on our part.

1 Timothy 6:12 – Fight the fight of faith to lay hold of what He has provided.

Ephesians 6:10 – We fight the battle, but it is in His strength.

Colossians 2:15 – He defeated the enemy and took away his weapons.

2 Corinthians 2:14 – He leads us in this same triumph.

Romans 8:29-37 – All He did was for us – to make us more than conquerors in whatever we face. Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us.

Colossians 1:13 – We are delivered from the dominion of darkness and from all the power of the enemy.

Luke 10:19 – We were given power and authority over all the power of the enemy and nothing can harm us.

JEHOVAH TISDKENU – The Lord is my Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)

2 Corinthians 5:21 – He took my sin and gave me His righteousness in its place.

1 Corinthians 1:31 – Jesus is made righteousness to us.

Romans 5:18-19 – By His one act of righteousness, I am made righteous. I am made righteous by *His* obedience.

Benefits of righteousness: Isaiah 54:17; 32:17; 30:15.

JEHOVAH RAPHA – The Lord is my Healer or Physician (Exodus 15:26)

Healing is His will for me, and it is was provided in my Redemption.

This is His name forever. If He was once a Healer, He is forever a healer. When you come to *really believe He really wants* you well, it will work for you.

Psalm 103:3 – He not only forgives all of your sins, but He also heals all of your diseases.

Isaiah 53:4-5 – Surely He bore our infirmities (griefs, sickness) and carried our sorrows (pains)...He was pierced through for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

Matthew 8:17 – Jesus fulfilled this scripture by healing those who came to Him.

1 Peter 2:24 – He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds we were healed. For we were continually straying like sheep, but now we have returned to the Shepherd and guardian of our souls.

Sometimes we try to spend so much time tearing down the bad things in our lives that we don't leave enough time for building up the good.

Don't try to cast down the bad and incorrect images of yourself as much as replace them with the truth from the Word about yourself. Just ignore them and put your mind instead on the wonderful truths of what He has done for you, how much He loves you, what He had made you. The truth will as time goes on push aside and cast down the lies and make you truly free, truly in your daily life who He has made you.

When a thought contrary to the Word comes into your mind, replace it with a scripture and say it out loud – or at least out loud in your spirit. If you do this regularly, the old thoughts will lose power and the new scriptural thoughts and images of yourself will begin to take their place and your life will truly be transformed from the inside out.