



Renewing the Mind is Developing the Heart of God

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

Charles E Sivley

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“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;” 1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

Our minds are constantly being flooded with tons of information daily ranging from various daily tasks, to future goals and so on. While we all do have things to deal with in the natural it is necessary as a born-again believer that we renew our minds according to His Word. We should not be thinking of anything other than the Word of God, and how we should run our lives daily in accordance with it. Do not think negative thoughts about anybody. If someone comes to your mind, pray in the Spirit for them. That is a release for them and a release for yourself. When we refuse to think negatively about others then it makes it easier not to speak negatively about them. *“... speak evil of no man...” Titus 3:2 (KJV)*

“... That you maybe mindful ...” (Hold it, what are you supposed to be mindful of? The Word of God!) “... of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior:” 2 Peter 3:2 (KJV)

We should be “mind full” of the Word of God. Keeping our minds full of His Word. Jesus said, *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you ...” John 15:7 (NKJV)* We must understand that when we read the Word of God and stay in His Word, this is what is happening; we are abiding in Him, and therefore His Words are abiding in us! When we do this, we are qualified to be disciples of Jesus. *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.” John 8:31 (NKJV)*

THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

*“As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”
Proverbs 27:17 (NKJV)*

It is very essential for us to be in constant fellowship with people who are rich in the Word of God, because we should all want to come to new revelations, right? After all it is true that we become objects of our surroundings. *“He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.”* Proverbs 13:20 (NKJV) We must also understand that we can be deceived, if we are not alert, and fall into unprofitable relationships that lead to the corruption of our minds which is contrary to God’s perfect will. *“Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.”* 1 Corinthians 15:33 (AMPC)

Strong believers of a rightly divided Word of God, are excellent resources to remain strong in the challenging times and receive those gold nuggets of wisdom, right?

PERFECT PEACE NO MATTER WHAT

“You ...” (referring to God) *“... will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.”* Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV) Now think about that for a moment; perfect peace. That is the peace that surpasses all natural understanding. The Child who was born; the Son who was given is Jesus ...and He is the *“... Prince of Peace.”* Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) Jesus said, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you ...”* John 14:27 (NKJV) Right? This peace has already been given unto us! We are supposed to be walking into houses and declaring, “my peace be upon this house.” Right? Well, that is what it says in Luke 10:5! *“But whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’”* Luke 10:5 (NKJV) It will happen; it will manifest. Right? Jesus is our example. He spoke to the storm saying, *“Peace, be still”* (Mark 4:39) He could release that peace because He was full of peace.

In Ephesians it says to constantly renew the spirit of your mind. *“And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude. And put on the new nature (the regenerate*

self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness."
Ephesians 4:23-24 (AMPC)

"... and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him," Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" 2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

Here in Colossians it reads, "if" (see there is an **if** there) "... then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (Where is our mind supposed to be set? Our minds are supposed to be set on things above! Right? We are born again from above. Right? We also must understand that just as there is a heavenly calling there is also an earthly calling.) ³ *"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."* (Where is your life hidden? Your life is hidden with Christ; in God!). ⁴ *"When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.* ⁵ *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.* ⁶ *Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,"* (Now, this is kind of radical, but He is working towards a renewed mind. Think about this. You break down verse 5 for yourself.) ⁷ *"in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them."* (So, now what are we supposed to put off?) ⁸ *But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.* ⁹ *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,* ¹⁰ *and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image*

of Him who created him," (This is all the renewing of the mind. This is powerful, but if we are not doers of the Word of God, then nothing will ever manifest. ¹¹ *where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.*" Colossians 3:1-11 (NKJV)

Finally, what does this new man look like? What are his characteristics? ¹² *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;* ¹³ *bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.* ¹⁴ *But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.* ¹⁵ *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.* ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."* (and how do we do that?) *"... in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."* Colossians 3:12-16 (NKJV) **We are talking about the renewed mind; what God wants to do with it, and where He is going with it.**

This is a deeper part of the mystery, because we will never get a revelation of the mystery without Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. We cannot be a part of something unless God has unveiled it and revealed it to us.

We can have a bond with another believer and be "married" in the realm of spirit, where nothing can separate us. Many people do not understand that kind of bond. Remember, *"... there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."* Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV) When we have our minds renewed by and through the Word of God, we can be that friend, and we can enjoy those bonds!

NO SCHISM'S IN THE BODY

“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.” 1 Corinthians 12:25 (KJV) That there be no schism in the body, that is to say, there should be no division. His Word even guides us to mark those that cause division. *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”* Romans 16:17 (KJV)

In Ephesians we read, ¹⁷*This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: (Now, we go on to what we put off, and put on.) ²²that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,”* (The AMPC translation reads that we should be “constantly renewed”.) ²⁴*and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.”* (We are members one of another. Isn't that amazing! We are the body of Christ!) ²⁶*“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷nor give place to the devil”* (Why should we not give any place to the devil? Because when we do, we are moving into his area, his kingdom. Right?) ²⁸*“Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness,*

wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." (Remember when God forgives us, He removes our transgressions as far as the east is from the west. Psalm 103:12. Should we not do the same to others, just as He forgave us? ^{5:1} "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ²And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. Ephesians 4:17-5:2 (NKJV)

The idea of the renewed mind is that; we must renew our minds with the His Word, and understand His Word, and then actually do what the Word of God says to do!

WHATEVER IS OCCUPYING OUR MINDS CONTROLS US

We can read the bible for years and we will always find new things that we are obligated to do. Our growing does not stop! We should continue to move from one level to another level. We must understand that whatever is occupying our minds will control us. That is just how it works. Wherever our minds go, we will follow. It is for this reason it was written, "*This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.*" Joshua 1:8 (AMPC)

EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WITH A RENEWED MIND –

1.) Christ-

"Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded," (How is that?) "having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (WOW! God is going have a people who are going to have their minds set on Him, set above. This is when this "end time move of God" is going to come. Everybody seems to be waiting on this "end time" thing; however, God is waiting on us! When we begin to do

what they were doing in the book of Acts, we will have what the book of Acts had. God has not changed.) ³ *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*” (Pride will not let people do this. Everybody is called to do something for God that no one else can do, and we need to do it.)⁴ *Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*” Philippians 2:1-4 (NKJV) Now think about this for a moment; the growth and welfare of others should be more important to us than our own growth, and welfare. Let the strong bear the infirmities of the weak. Right? This whole section is describing the mind of Christ, and the heart of God.

² *Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*” Galatians 6:2 (NKJV) Bearing one another’s burdens is possessing the mind of Christ, and the heart of God.

So now, with my renewed mind, I want to see my sister grow. It blesses me that she is laying hands on people and praying for them. The Spirit of God used to get moving in the tent, and I would get people praying for other people, and miracles would be happening, and I would just sit down, and let the Spirit of God have His way. That is a blessing. Right? **Just having God do what He wants to do and using everybody.**

The devil comes to split, divide, and conquer. That is his job. **God is unity.** God is one. Jesus said, *“He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”* Matthew 12:30 (KJV) **God wants us to have the very mind of Christ, and His heart.**

YOU HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST- AND SHOULD WANT TO DEVELOP THE MIND OF CHRIST!

That is what God wants for each and every person. We are advised to, ⁵ *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*” Philippians 2:5 (NKJV) Come on, God’s Word would not tell us to do something that was NOT possible.

*“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? **but we have the mind of Christ.**” 1 Corinthians 2:16 (KJV)*
“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.” John 15:15 (NKJV) We go from servanthood, to friendship, and finally into sonship.

What exactly does son-ship initiate? Sonship initiates the mind of Christ. A son is always working to establish God’s purposes and God’s plans on this earth. Right? Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” John 4:34 (NKJV)

Now think about this, He is making one new man. Right? This new man will dominate this earth. This one new man will consist of a body of believers! He says I will have a church, an assembly of people, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. God is going to have it! We should want to be a part of it! It is forming right now! The world is going to miss it. *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* Matthew 16:18 (KJV)

2.) Timothy-

¹⁹“But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. ²⁰For I have no one like-minded, (So, what does this like-mindedness mean?) who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:19-21 (NKJV)

3.) Epaphroditus –

²⁵“Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; ²⁶since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸Therefore I sent

him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; ³⁰ because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.” Philippians 2:25-30 (NKJV)

4.) Paul-

Here in Romans Paul writes, “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.” Romans 15:1-2 (KJV)

¹¹ “Therefore comfort each other and one another, just as you also are doing. ¹² And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11-23 (NKJV)

Here in Corinthians Paul writes, “Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved”. 1 Corinthians 10:33 (KJV) Did you catch that? He was not seeking His own profit, but the profit of others that they may be saved. That is a renewed mind, and the heart of God.

EXAMPLES OF A RENEWED MIND

“Let no one seek his own, but each one the other’s well-being.” 1 Corinthians 10:24 (NKJV)

This goes right back to Philippians where it says, “... let each esteem others better than himself.” Philippians 2:3 (NKJV) Right? The only way that this can be accomplished is through a renewed mind. There is no “I” in that. We are members one of another (Romans 12:5) and we need to realize there is power in unity. The corporate body is what God’s Word is talking about in Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. All who truly know God will be ONE.

The entire book of Philippians is focused on giving us examples of the renewed mind and encouraging us to possess this renewed mind. It is not just the “put on” and “put off”. Colossians and Ephesians basically say the same thing; however, Colossians is guiding us on how to “get back” to a renewed mind. Proof, re-proof and correction. Romans is the proof, and Philippians is the re-proof. It is re-proving people. Finally, Colossians is the correction.

RENEWING OUR MINDS IS WHAT DEVELOPS THE HEART OF GOD

*“For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? **But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah)**” (Now pay attention to this part.) **“and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.”** 1 Corinthians 2:16 (AMPC)*

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26 (NKJV) You might be reading this and think, “well, God just has to put that heart into us.” No, wrong answer. We must desire this. You see, when we do what God says, then He must fulfill the covenant He promised to us.

”¹⁰For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: ¹¹And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from

the least to the greatest." Hebrews 8:10-11 (KJV) Why is this? It is because all the people that know God are going to come into one. Nothing will be able to separate us from our brothers or mentors. All of hell will try to separate us, but ultimately it is up to us not to allow it. The devil will try to divide us, but we must take care not to let the devil's venomous words come into us about our brothers. "... speak evil of no man ..." Titus 3:2 (KJV) We must get a revelation of this. We must be driven with a purpose, God's purpose. We must want what He wants. Right?

HIS PURPOSES IN OUR HEART

God has put it in our hearts to, "... *hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.* ¹⁷ *For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.*" Revelation 17:16 (NKJV) Right?

¹⁶ *"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"* ¹⁷ *then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."* Hebrews 10:16-17 (NKJV)

THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS BRINGS THE HEART OF GOD INTO US. THE MIND OF CHRIST AND THE HEART OF GOD; THEY ALL TIE TOGETHER.

² *"You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;* ³ *clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.* ⁴ *And we have such trust through Christ toward God.* ⁵ *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,* ⁶ *who also made us sufficient as ministers ..."* You see, everybody is a minister! Everyone! "... *of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*" 2 Corinthians 3:2-6 (NKJV)

BEING OF THE SAME MIND; ONE MIND, RENEWED WITH THE WORD OF GOD

God is doing something extremely powerful in this hour. People who are not of the same mind, and who are not chosen to be of the same mind, are not going to stay in this unity that God is doing right now. *“For many are called (invited and summoned), but few are chosen.”* Matthew 22:14 (AMPC)

¹⁵ *“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”* Romans 12:15-21 (KJV) What exactly is this whole excerpt talking about? It is referring to being of the same mind. God is going to work this, and He is working it right now. We do want to not miss what He is doing!

⁸ *“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.”* 1 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV) Being of one mind, having compassion one for another; this is the heart of God. **THE ONLY WAY THAT WE CAN ALL BE OF ONE MIND, IS TO RENEW OUR MINDS THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD.**

⁵ *“Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”* Romans 15:5-7 (NKJV) Now that is powerful right?

Does Jesus reject anybody? Absolutely not! When we have this same compassion and love for other people, we just want to see everybody grow. Like Paul said, “... *that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*” Colossians 1:28 (NKJV) Maturity; that is what God wants. **He wants everyone to be spiritually mature.**

Yes, there are some people that do not want to grow. They come to a certain place and say, “I’m done.” I do not know; I want to see everybody walk in signs, wonders and miracles, and I believe God does too. However, they do not seem to desire to.

Let’s read Romans again: ⁵“*Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,* ⁶*that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁷*Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us to the glory of God.*” Romans 15:5-7 (NKJV) **This is exactly what God wants!**

“*Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,*” Philippians 1:27 (NKJV) This scripture supports total unity! Total unity is “... *holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.*” Colossians 2:19 (NKJV)

Come on, why does it say, “*that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.*”? 1 Corinthians 12:25 (NKJV) Also, why does it say, “*note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*”? Romans 16:17 (NKJV) Why? It is because those people are operating under spirits that are bringing enmity into what God is putting together. That is discord rather than unity.

“*Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*” Philippians 2:2 (KJV)

“For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.”
Philippians 2:20 (KJV)

“Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you ¹⁶ Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.” (What is that mind? Striving for the faith of the gospel.) *“¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”*
Philippians 3:15-17 (NKJV)

The manifold wisdom of God is going to reveal things to one person, and not to someone else. However, the **ONLY** reason this happens is because that person does not want to know what the other person wants to know. People have different personalities. This is the way I see the 5-fold ministry that God is birthing: the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher. You can take these five different people and give them the same exact message and one person could receive from them, and another would not. It is because of different personalities and the way each one delivers a message. The same message through five different people, and five different ways of delivering it. Isn't that amazing how that works?

“I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord”. Philippians 4:2 (NKJV)

“⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.” Romans 15:5-7 (NKJV)

Here in John 17 Jesus was praying for the disciples, and for us. Please note He is not praying for the world out there; He is praying for us! *“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.”* John 17:9 (NKJV) *“I in them, and You*

in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me". John 17:23 (NKJV) **Now think about this for a moment, "... that they may be made perfect in one," This means totally maturity in one.**

Take time to read Ephesians 4 because it is all about, *"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* Ephesians 4:3(KJV) This is going to happen in our lifetime!

"¹³ indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, ¹⁴ so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God." 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 (NKJV) **Now, why did the glory of the Lord fill the house of God? It was because they were all one! They were making one sound.** One translation says they were of one mouth. *"And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house".* 2 Chronicles 7:2 (NKJV)

Let's really think about this. This is exactly why the enemy does not want this unity to come into play among believers.

NON-SPIRITUAL UNCHANGED MEN; INFANTS

"However, brethren, I could not talk to you as to spiritual [men], but as to nonspiritual [men of the flesh, in whom the carnal nature predominates], as to mere infants [in the new life] in Christ [unable to talk yet!]" ?" 1 Corinthians 3:1 (AMPC) Come on here, Paul is talking to full grown men in the churches, and telling them they were only infants, unable to talk. This gets pretty radical when you break it down in the Greek. It says in whom the carnal nature predominates. *"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."* Romans 8:6 (KJV) Now let's continue here in 1 Corinthians 3.

² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not yet strong enough [to be ready for it]; but even yet you are not strong enough [to be ready for it], ³ For you are still [unspiritual, having the nature] of the flesh [under the control of ordinary impulses]. For as long as [there are] envying and jealousy and wrangling and factions among you, are you not unspiritual and of the flesh, behaving yourselves after a human standard and like mere (unchanged) men?" 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (AMPC) You see, these people had no renewed mind. The Spirit of God was not in them. This is an example of minds that have not truly been renewed. Jude backs this up as well saying, "These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit." Jude 19 (NKJV) Now we will move on in 1 Corinthians 3.

⁴ *For when one says, I belong to Paul, and another, I belong to Apollos, are you not [proving yourselves] ordinary (unchanged) men?"* 1 Corinthians 3:4 (AMPC) The fact that these full-grown adults in church were only infants, unable to speak, and unchanged, was a direct result of division. These people were in fact setting up denominations (which is division) because they were nonspiritual people who allowed the carnal nature to rule, instead of Christ. They were not plugged into the Head. (Colossians 2:19)

SPIRITUAL MEN; MATURITY

As we continue to read here in 1 Corinthians 3, we begin to see maturity come forward. Here Paul explains what the nature of spiritual adults (with the renewed minds) looks like, ⁹ For we are fellow workmen (joint promoters, laborers together) with and for God; you are God's garden and vineyard and field under cultivation, [you are] God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:9 (AMPC) When people come together in the unity of the Spirit, rather than the unity of a denomination, they are joint promoters laboring together with God. When you see a group of people like this (i.e., the remnant of God) you will see a true fivefold ministry where there are no big I's or little you's; but everyone flows together in the Spirit. There is a unity of the Spirit where each one has the same purpose. That

purpose is to labor with, and for God. "... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." 2 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV) There is liberty for each one to flow as the Spirit of the Lord wills; the fivefold ministry. "How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification." 1 Corinthians 14:26 (NKJV)

That is why I say the whole world is crazy. It is because people are not truly born again. They confess, "Well I am a Christian." Ok, yeah, but have they truly been born again? Do they have a renewed mind? Do they have the mind of Christ? Do they care more about other people more than themselves? Come on, think about it. Even psychiatrists have proven that if people who are depressed, oppressed, suppressed, regressed, would just help somebody else out, they would come out of their oppression. That is Biblical! What ever happened to doing unto others as you would have them do unto you? (Luke 6:31) What about loving your enemies, doing good to those who spitefully use you. (Matthew 5:44) That is the mind of Christ talking to us. Whatsoever a man soweth that is what he will reap. Right? (Galatians 6:7) Pray one for another that you might be healed. (James 5:16) Sowing and reaping. You see, when I am praying for somebody else, I'm not only sowing healing, but I am also reaping healing. These are all examples of the renewed mind.

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work." 2 Timothy 2:20-21 (NKJV) Sanctified, and useful, for what? For the work of God. Paul is pointing everybody back to the Word of God, and that is where we need to be.

"But be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth]." James 1:22 (AMPC) If we just begin to do some of this, then a lot of it will fall into place for us.

*“And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* Romans 12:2 (KJV) To transform is like unto metamorphosis. It is literally going from a caterpillar to a butterfly. It is literally going from a tadpole to a frog. God has a plan for this. That plan is renewing our minds. A renewed mind is the real deal!

WHO IS GOING TO RENEW YOUR MIND?

The big question is, “who is going to renew our minds?” God does not automatically renew our minds for us. It is up to US to renew our minds. We must become doers of the Word of God. That is where the blessings of God are. And every time we read a page in the Word of God; we will find there is even more to do.

RENEWING THE MIND IS DEVELOPING THE HEART OF GOD!

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*“Finally, brethren, pray for us,
that the Word of the Lord
may have free course,
and be glorified, even as it is with you.”*

2 Thessalonians 3:1

“So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed”

Acts 19:20

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