

Renewing The Mind; Changing The Life

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12: 1-2)

Repentance is to turn away from sin and have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance should come first in the lives of believers, then salvation will follow upon the confession of Jesus as Saviour and Lord over their lives. Jesus’ death on the cross, paying the prize for our sins, His burial and His resurrection on the third day, opened the way for us to receive forgiveness for our sins and pave the way to us to reach God the Father in Heaven.

John the Baptist started his ministry by calling the people for repentance, ***“And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (Mark 1: 4)*** Jesus Christ after John the Baptist He started His ministry as well with a call for repentance, ***“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” He said, “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1: 14-15)*** When Jesus sent the twelve He instructed them to preach repentance, therefore, ***“They went out and preached that people should repent.” (Mark 6: 12)*** Peter in his first sermon on the day of Pentecost he preached repentance: ***“Peter replied, “repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy spirit.” (Acts 2: 38)*** Paul after his conversion he preached repentance and this is what he testified, ***“First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.” (Acts 26: 20)*** God is waiting patiently for you and for many people to repent and turn from life of sin to life of righteousness toward Him, ***“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promises, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3: 9)***

Paul wrote to the church in Rome, ***“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*** The believers in the Lord Jesus Christ to be transformed and to take the character and attitude of the Lord Jesus Christ, their minds first need to be renewed. To renew the mind is to remove the previous mind setup and the old principles that based on cultures, traditions, bad habits, previous life style, or previous ambitions and life’s plan and to replace them all with the new principles that Jesus and the Word of God in the Bible teaches and declare.

The mind is the first part of the body that need to be offered to God. Let us read the parable of the two sons that Jesus said, ***“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.” (Mathew 21: 28-30)***

We find the first son refused to respond to his father call, ***but later after that he changed his mind, he repented and was able to say, ‘Yes,’ to God.*** The Word transformation it mean complete change from figure or shape to another completely different shape or figure.

If we look to the life cycle of the butterfly we can find the meaning of the transformation. It starts from the egg that hatch into larva. The larva crawls over the trees and eat the leaves. Then time will come for the larva to loose most of its legs and to keep only 6 legs, and to become an insect inside the cocoon and to stay there for a period of time to develop and become mature, and to have wings instead of many legs. Then the time will come to the insect inside the cocoon to leave through a narrow gap; That is difficult but it is mandatory. The fatty insect must pass through the narrow gap so that her body juice will be pumped to the wings, and therefore can be inflated and be used for flying. As well as for the insect to pass through the narrow gap its body would become slim and can be carried by the wings. *The transformation of the believer is in the same way. In every stage of his life there must be changes that goes with the calling of God to him and in accord to the teaching of the Word of God.*

1- There are certain things that he need to forsake and renounce:

These are his sins that he need to repent. Like the many small legs that the larva need to loss in order for it to become an insect inside the cocoon.

2- There are certain things the believer need to possess: These are the fruit of the Holy Spirit, ***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5: 22-23)*** In order for the believer to take the likeness and the character of Jesus in his life he need to possess the fruit of the Holy Spirit in his personality and behaviours.

3- There are certain circumstances the believer should pass through:

The mature insect should pass through the narrow gap in the cocoon to enjoy flying in the green fields. In the same way the believer should pass through the narrow gate and the narrow road that leads to salvation; we should live in holiness and the righteousness of God in order for us to enter heaven. ***“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” (Mathew 7: 13-14)***

My Dear and Beloved: Your mind is important to take the decision to repent and to follow God; ***“Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3: 2)*** Don’t be confirm any longer to the pattern of this world. Don’t follow the earthly principles. Don’t follow the wrong ways of the world. Read the Word of God and obey what it says. Take the firm decision and determine to follow God and accept His will and His plan in your life as you agree to repent of your sins and pray to God.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried but rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I change my mind; I decided to repent form these sins _____ . Accept me as your child and transform me to be into your likeness and to live according to your will. Thank you Lord, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*