
Changing The Mind (Transforming The Way We Think)

Transformational Love

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Sermon: Transformational Love: Changing The Mind (Transforming The Way We Think)

Lesson Text

Romans 12:2 (KJV)² 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.

Philippians 2:5 (KJV)⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Introduction

We are continuing our series entitled Transformational Love: The Evidence That God Is Changing Us.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- God's love was never intended merely to comfort us—it was designed to transform us. The evidence that we belong to Christ is not perfection, but transformation.
- Last week we discovered that transformational love changes our hearts. God takes away the stony heart and gives us a new heart that is responsive to Him.

But transformation doesn't just change the heart (how we feel), it also changes our minds (how we think).

We can love God and still struggle with old ways of thinking. We can be saved and still struggle with fear, hopelessness, negativity, and mindsets developed through years of experiences.

That is why Paul says: Romans 12:2 (KJV) “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Notice the contrast between conformed and transformed.

The world wants to conform us to its way of thinking. God wants to transform us into His way of thinking.

Culture tells us what to value. Society tells us what success looks like. People tell us what we should believe. Our past tells us what we should expect.

But God says, don't allow what's around you to determine what's within you.

Transformation requires a renewed mind.

Proverbs 23:7 (KJV) “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”

What we continually think eventually influences how we live.

That's why the goal is not simply positive thinking. The goal is Christ-like thinking.

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Philippians 2:5 (KJV) “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

God's transformational love renews our thinking until our minds reflect the perspective, hope, and faith of Christ.

Today let's discover what happens when God's love begins Changing The Mind.

Series and Sermon: Transformational Love: Changing The Mind (Transforming The Way We Think)

(Transforming Our Minds From Worldly to Spiritual, From Helpless to Hopeful, From Fearful To Faithful)

I. God's Love Renews Our Thinking (From Worldly to Spiritual)

Romans 12:2 (KJV) “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Transformation begins when God changes not only what we think, but how we think. This is about a New Perspective!

A new heart must be accompanied by a renewed mind.

We can have a new heart but still carry old mindsets. This is why Paul warns us not to be conformed to this world.

As we stated earlier, the world wants to conform us by shaping how we think, what success looks like, what makes us happy, what we should value, and what we can expect.

But transformational love changes our perspective from worldly thinking to spiritual thinking.

Worldly thinking asks, “What does everybody else think?” Spiritual thinking asks, “What does God say?”

Romans 8:5–6 (KJV) “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit... to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

The carnal mind sees life primarily from a human perspective. The spiritual mind learns to see life from God's perspective.

- Worldly thinking says, “If they hurt me, hurt them back.”
- Spiritual thinking says, “Forgive, even as Christ forgave you.”
- Worldly thinking says, “Put yourself first.”
- Spiritual thinking says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God.”
- Worldly thinking says, “Walk by what you can see.”
- Spiritual thinking says, “We walk by faith, not by sight.”

Philippians 2:5 (KJV) “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

The ultimate goal of renewal is not simply becoming a more positive thinker, it is becoming a Christ-like or Spiritual thinker.

Jesus saw things differently, his mind was different.

- When others saw sinners, Jesus saw people who needed salvation.
- When others saw five loaves and two fish as insufficient, Jesus saw the possibility of a miracle.
- When others saw Lazarus as dead, Jesus saw an opportunity for God's glory.

Jesus did not allow what He saw naturally to override what He knew spiritually. This is the mind God wants to develop in us.

Worldly thinking is shaped by the culture around us. Spiritual thinking is shaped by the Spirit within us.

Philippians 4:8 (KJV) “Whatsoever things are true... honest... just... pure... lovely... of good report... think on these things.”

We cannot always control what enters our minds, but we can control what we allow to stay on our minds.

We can't stop every thought from knocking at the door, but we don't have to invite every thought inside and let it spend the night.

Some thoughts must be rejected, Some thoughts must be challenged, some thoughts must be replaced.

II. God's Love Redirects Our Thinking (From Hopeless to Hopeful)

Romans 12:2 (KJV) “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

A renewed mind doesn't deny the reality of our problem; it faces the problems without the hope of God's promises. This is about a New Expectation!

- 2 Corinthians 1:20 (KJV)²⁰ For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

One of the greatest battles in our minds is the battle between hopelessness and hope.

Hopelessness says: “It will always be this way;” “Things will never get better;” “I'll never recover from this;” “There is no way out.”

But transformational love redirects our thinking from hopelessness to hopeful!

God does not simply tell us to stop thinking hopeless thoughts. He gives us something hopeful to think about.

Romans 15:13 (KJV). “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope...”

Hope is the confident expectation that because God is involved, my present condition does not have to become my permanent conclusion.

Hopeless thinking expects the worst. Hopeful thinking expects God to work.

Abraham saw an aging body—but he also saw a promise.

David saw Goliath—but he also remembered his God.

Israel saw the Red Sea—but Moses knew God could make a way.

Hopelessness focuses on what we don't have. Hope focuses on the God who has everything we need.

Philippians 4:19 (KJV)¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Psalms 42:11 (KJV)

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul?... hope thou in God...”

Sometimes you have to preach to your own mind:

God is still faithful. God is still able. God is still working. God is still in control.

Hopelessness says, “This is how my story ends.”

Hope says, “God is still writing my story.”

III. God's Love Releases Our Thinking (From Fearful to Faithful)

Romans 12:2 (KJV) “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

- God's Love Renews Our Thinking — From Worldly to Spiritual
- God's Love Redirects Our Thinking — From Hopeless to Hopeful
- God's Love Releases Our Thinking — From Fearful to Faith-Filled

Finally, a renewed mind stops being controlled by what might happen and starts trusting the God who already knows what will happen. This is about New Confidence.

One of the greatest prisons we can live in is a mind controlled by fear.

Fear can keep us from trying, trusting, moving, obeying, and becoming everything God has called us to become.

But transformational love releases our thinking from fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV) “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

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Paul says God has not given us fear. Instead, He gives us power, love, and a sound mind.

Fear causes us to imagine everything that could go wrong. Faith reminds us of everything God has already promised.

Fearful thinking is controlled by possibilities. Faithful thinking is controlled by promises.

Fear looks at the Giants, Faith looks at our Giant God!

1 Samuel 17:37 (KJV) “The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.”

Sometimes the best evidence that God will bring you through this is remembering what He already brought you through.

The situation may be different, The challenge may be greater, The giant may be bigger. But God has not changed!

1 John 4:18 (KJV) “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear...”

When we know that God loves us, we can trust Him when I don't understand Him.

I can trust Him when He tells me to wait. I can trust Him when the path doesn't make sense. I can trust Him when I cannot see what He's doing.

We may feel fear, but we don't have to follow fear. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV) “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

I don't see the answer yet—but I trust God.

I don't see the provision yet—but I trust God.

I don't understand the process—but I trust God.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Changing The Mind (Transforming The Way We Think))

Lesson Text

- Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:5

Sermon Outline

- I. God's Love Renews Our Thinking — From Worldly to Spiritual*
- II. God's Love Redirects Our Thinking — From Hopeless to Hopeful*
- III. God's Love Releases Our Thinking — From Fearful to Faith-Filled*

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting To Know “Me”

1. What's your morning routine look like?
2. If you could invest in any cause, what would it be?

II. Into The Bible

1. Philippians 2:5 says, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” According to Scripture, what kind of mind did Christ have?
2. Romans 12:2 speaks of the “good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” According to Scripture, what is the will of God?

III. Life Application

1. Which of the three transformations of thinking described in the lesson are you most in need of right now?
2. What is the difference between positive thinking and Christ-like thinking?