

Renewing The Mind



*Developing a new
dimension of thinking*

Apostle Melvin L. Tisdale

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Wells of Salvation is a ministry that is dedicated to bringing to the body of Christ such teachings concerning the Kingdom of God, providing practical application of kingdom principles in our everyday life.

Apostle Melvin Tisdale is a leader of leaders, a father to many men and women who lead ministries in Louisiana and throughout other areas in the country.

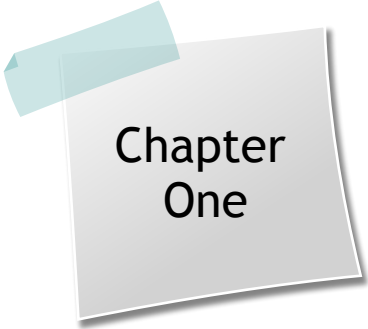
In 1997 Apostle Tisdale was released into the Apostolic Ministry to father men in the Lord and to help strengthen and structure pastors and their churches.

Apostle Tisdale has been instrumental in encouraging more than 50 ministries to meet together in Central Louisiana.

Apostle Tisdale's vision is to see the restoration of Kingdom Principles, enabling the body of Christ to:

- Know who they are
- Know what they possess
- Know what they can do in Christ Jesus

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Chapter One

Why Renew The Mind?

There are many commands and directions given to man in God's Word. Probably the least understood and obeyed is Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

When an individual is born-again, it is the spirit that is born-again or recreated. The mind is still the same and it must be renewed or restored in order to allow God's Word to work as He originally intended.

The reason that so many born-again, spirit-filled Christians live a defeated life of fear and confusion is because their mind has not been renewed. They are still conformed to the world; they still think as the world thinks. They have not been transformed by the renewing of their minds.

The mind must be changed or renewed in order to think properly. If you do not think correctly you will not act correctly. The reason is that the mind controls the action of the body.

When a person of the word sees some of their family sick, they immediately think, "Get a doctor." The bodily action of picking up the telephone and calling the doctor is then performed. The Christian with a mind that is not renewed does the same thing because in the area of healing for the physical body, he is still conformed to the world's way of thinking and acting.

The Christian whose mind is renewed thinks, "my loved one was healed by the stripes of Jesus" (1 Peter 2:24). "I have power over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 19:19). "I can lay hands on my loved one and they will recover." (Mark 16:18). The bodily actions that follow are contrary to the world. Instead of calling a doctor, the Word of God is put to work and hands are laid on the sick, in faith. They will then recover according to the eternal word of God.

We talked earlier of thinking right and acting right. This means to think and act in line with the Word of God. This cannot be done unless the mind is renewed. "The carnal (not renewed) mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Romans 8:7). The mind that is not renewed cannot

please God because it does not think in line with God's Word; will not allow obedience to the Word.

The mind is the connecting link between the spirit man and the physical an (the body). When the mind is conformed to the world or to the things that the natural man knows and understands the spirit man (the new creation) is not allowed to control the body as God intends. The spirit man cannot direct the body to lay hands on the sick, to cast out devils, or to speak in tongues or do any of the things that the Word of God says we can and must do.

When the mind is renewed and the spirit man, through that renewed mind controls the body, then we "can prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). The world will see that God's Word does work and that it will meet the specifications that are set forth in the Word.

The mind must be renewed in order to allow God to manifest Himself to the world through the bodies that have been presented to Him as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). As we continue looking at the question, "Why renew the mind?" we find that there are many reasons for the directions given in Romans 12:1-2.

The first reason is that the not renewed or carnal mind is an enemy of God. It cannot and will not submit to the Word of God (Romans 8:7). The second reason is that even a born-again, spirit-filled Christian has a mind that is not renewed until he or she deliberately embarks on the journey of the renewing of the mind. This is not an overnight trip but will last a lifetime and is a continuous process. The new-birth and the renewing of the mind are not the same.

We must understand that the not renewed mind or carnal mind is related to satan. Man's first sin was mind-related. A question was asked of Eve that caused her to think, to get into the arena of the mind and to question God's Word. The communication between man and satan always begins in the mind arena. The offer of satan was knowledge, which has to do with the mind. Temptation and thought always go hand in hand.

We can see that even after the new-birth, the mind must be renewed. Otherwise the Holy Spirit would never have instructed Christians in Romans 12:2 "Be ye transformed (changed) by the renewing of your mind." The renewing of the mind is a changing of the "thought-life."

There are strongholds of wrong-thinking that must be pulled down. There are imaginations of the mind that need to be "cast down." We can see that there are

high things or exalted thinking that is contrary to the word of God and it must be brought into captivity along with every thought, to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

The battleground is the mind and both God and satan desire to have control of the mind. Too many Christians have allowed satan to continue to control their mind instead of allowing God to have control.

The mind must be renewed in order to receive instructions from the recreated human spirit that is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The reason for this is that the not renewed mind will not allow the body to perform the doing of God's Word. You know, yourself, that the body acts on the directions from the mind. The mind that is not renewed will not act on the directions given by the Spirit or by the Word of God (Romans 8:7)

The not renewed mind acts only on reason and logic. The Word of God is not reasonable or logical to a mind educated by the five senses. It was not reasonable for God to send Jesus to the cross. It is not reasonable to speak in tongues. It is not logical that believers can lay hands on the sick and they recover. The not renewed mind will not allow the body to do these things.

The mind must be renewed because the mind is where satan introduces false doctrines, half truths and the doctrines of men. If satan is able to hinder a Christian from meditating, studying and doing God's Word, he has kept that person operating on and by the carnal mind. Then, because their heart desires the Word of God, they are many times deceived by partial truths or by seemingly "deep truths." These are traps laid by satan for those who, through ignorance and laziness have not begun the renewing of the mind. These traps keep you operating in the carnal, not renewed mind, which, according to Romans 8:6, is "death." Such traps are avoidable but only by being obedient to James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only deceiving your own selves."

The effectiveness of the trap is eliminated by hearing and doing the Word. We find that the Word says in Psalms 119:130 "The entrance of the Word giveth light, it giveth understanding to the simple." The hearing and doing of the Word sheds light on the traps laid by the enemy in order that we may continue unhindered in our walk with God.

We can see from these reasons presented that a person whose mind is not renewed limits the working of God in their life. It is easy to see that the mind is a link

between the spirit man and the body, actually performing the doing of God's word. It is only through the renewing of the mind that we can prove God's Word in our lives. In this way only, can we prove to the world that God's Word meets the specifications...that His Word really works.



Chapter
Two

How To Renew The Mind

The first step in the renewing of the mind is a firm, steadfast, unmovable decision to do what the Word says. The Word does say to present your bodies a living sacrifice. It does say “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Since the Word says to do this, we can rest, assured that God has given us the ability to do exactly that.

The next step is to act on your decision. You begin to act, not on what you know in your mind because it needs to be renewed or reprogrammed, but instead on what the Word of God says. This is what you did when you were born-again. You acted on the Word that says “confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and thou shalt be saved.” (Romans 10:9).

I know that each of you will agree that doing this is not reasonable or rational to the unrenewed mind. However, when you confessed Jesus as Lord, you did not act with your mind but you used your will.

Your soul is made up of three parts: mind, will and emotions. You can act with either one of these parts of your soul. If you act with your mind, you will be acting on what you have learned by sense knowledge and rationalization. Sense knowledge and rationalization are not in line with the Word; so most of the time, you will not be doing God’s Word. If you act by your emotions, you will be acting because of excitement caused by a feeling produced by a momentary experience. When you act with your will, it is a different thing.

You know that sense knowledge can fail or change. Emotions produced by an experience fade away but a decision of the will to act on the Word if something that will last. God’s Word and man’s will working together are an unbeatable combination. Those that are born-again could not be convinced that Jesus is not their Savior. The reason many people who claimed to be Christians slipped back is because they had an emotional experience only and never made a decision to walk with God regardless of the cost of circumstances.

The renewing of the mind is done by kicking your mind out of gear and, by your will, beginning to act on the Word of God. The Word says “these signs shall follow

them that believe, in My name they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.”
Mark 16:18.

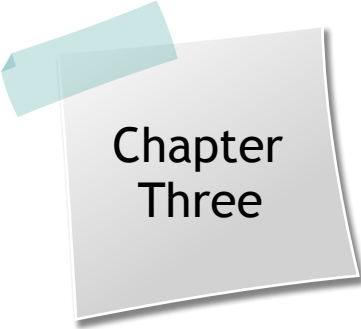
In order to renew or reprogram your mind, you must, by your will, present your body to God and lay hands on the sick in Jesus’ name. Your mind will want to argue and kick up a fuss but you are in control by your will and do not have to listen to the reasoning and logic from your natural mind. Fears and doubts that are from satan will assail your mind; however, satan is not your Lord. You are not doing his word but the Word of the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus will not put fear in you for doing His Word. “For God has not given us the spirit of fear.” (2 Timothy 1:7). You have power over the enemy (Luke 10:19). Use it in Jesus’ name and be a doer of the Word.

We find in James 1:22 a key to the renewing of the mind, “but be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” When we will respond to the Word of the God with a definite decision to act and then follow through with the action, the process of renewing the mind is well underway. Acting on the Word of God marks your consciousness. The time will come that, in that particular circumstance, your automatic response will be to do the Word.

Here is an example: Your child comes home from school complaining of pain in the stomach and is holding their right side. The natural mind says “appendicitis” and your response is to go to the one your mind trusts - the doctor. If you have decided to be a doer of the Word and renew your mind, then you will respond by doing the Word whether it is reasonable or not. The Word of God says in 1 Peter 2:24 “you were healed by the stripes of Jesus”; Matthew 8:17 “Himself took our infirmities and bare our sickness.” Then, you do 2 Corinthians 11:5 “cast down the imaginations that exalt themselves against the Word of God.”

The thought in your mind, “my child has appendicitis” is contrary to what God’s Word says, so cast it down by using the Word of God. Then, do what Mark 16:17-18 says: “lay hands on the sick” in Jesus’ name and the child will recover. Then, do Hebrews 10:23 “hold fast to your confession of faith without wavering, For he is faithful that promised.”

God’s Word is true. It does work, but we must decide to give our bodies to the Lord and be doers of the Word - regardless of that which speaks contrary to God’s Word.



Chapter Three

Functions of a Renewed Mind

The first and foremost function of the renewed mind is to follow after or to obey the spirit of man that is indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. The renewed mind can then have the fresh mental attitude that is needed to walk in victory. We will not only have victory in the spirit but in the mind. We will have the mental attitude that is in line with the Word of God; that is: victory, peace and rest.

The renewed mind that is ruled by the recreated human spirit, which is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, can be at peace and function in the rest of God. This renewed mind that follows after the Spirit is no longer ruled by the flesh or its desires but is ruled by the desires of the spirit man that is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The desire of the flesh to be sleepy or lazy, to eat everything in sight, to hurt someone who has hurt it or to do any number of other things is overruled by the recreated human spirit. The renewed mind now knows that it is not obligated to the flesh. It no longer has to live by the dictates of the flesh or carnal nature but lives by the dictates of the spirit man. (Romans 8:12 Amp.)

We see that the renewed mind becomes a tool in the hands of the recreated human spirit. The recreated human spirit instructs the renewed mind in the will of God and then the renewed mind directs the body in the doing of God's will. The spirit man knows that God's word says "these signs shall follow them that believe. In My name they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." The spirit man instructs the renewed mind and the renewed mind directs the body in the laying on of hands for the healing of the sick.

The renewed mind also has the function of recognizing and operating in the real values; not side issues. We are to grow in knowledge and comprehensive discernment in order to learn what is real and vital in our walk with Jesus. The renewed mind recognizes that religious activity is a side issue. What is more important - learning a bus route or learning first to walk by faith in the word? Which is the most effective: learning to put the word to use in your daily life or holding rummage sales for the church?

Who is the most effective witness or ambassador for Christ? One who learns the church witnessing program or the one, who by doing the word, has the benefits, blessings and privileges of the Kingdom of God working in his life? The renewed mind

knows that living in the word is where the real values are sets about doing the word of God.

The renewed mind knows that it has a position or place in the body of Christ and operates in it; knowing that it is a “holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace” (2 Timothy 1:9). The renewed mind also knows that growth is available, that we can continually increase in the knowledge of God and be fruitful in every good work. (Colossians 1:10)

We can see these four main functions of the renewed mind:

- 1) Follow after or be ruled by the recreated human spirit indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Direct the physical body in the doing of God’s word.
- 3) Recognize and operate in those things which are of real value and not side issues.
- 4) Recognize your position in the body of Christ and recognize that growth in Christ is available.



Chapter Four

The Results of Renewing The Mind

The Christian whose mind is renewed has territory restored to him that was formerly satan's main stronghold. The mighty weapons spoken of in 2 Corinthians 10:4 (the word of God, the Spirit of God, the Love of God, and the Name of Jesus) have been employed to pull down the walls of satan's stronghold. This Christian has learned to use these weapons to cast down wrong, hurtful, sense knowledge imaginations (reasoning) that come up in his mind. He has learned that he can successfully cast down anything in his mind that exalts itself against the word of God by using these weapons of our warfare. He has found that he can bring every thought in to the obedience of Christ (the Word).

The renewed mind is not just territory freed from enemy hands or merely the regaining of territory lost through ignorance but it is the coming into possession of something greater than ever had before. The mind that is renewed is at the place of really beginning to receive knowledge. "Whom shall he teach knowledge, whom shall He make to understand doctrine, them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breast. For precept must be on precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little." Isaiah 28:9-10.

We can see also in Romans 12:1 that it speaks of being "transformed by the renewing of your mind" and this means a change upward, a complete renovation of the entire mind. This is to have new ideals in life, new attitudes in life that are in line with the Word of God. This is the possession that is greater than anything we ever had before.

The renewing of the mind is the answer to the prayers of the Holy Spirit that were prayed in Ephesians 1:17-18 and Colossians 1:9. "The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; the eyes of your understanding being enlightened." "We, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you and to desire that you be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

As we continue to see what the results of renewing the mind are, we find that it is a part of the maturing process. The Christians at Corinth, according to 1 Corinthians 3:1 were carnal or sense knowledge minded. They had not yet renewed their minds by the doing of the word.

They had not learned that it was reasonable, rational and intelligent that they be not conformed to the world's way (sense knowledge) but that they could prove out in their own lives that God's word (revelation knowledge) is the good, acceptable, and perfect way to live.

The renewing of the mind also brings legal possessions into practical use. We are told in 1 Corinthians 2:16 "we have the mind of Christ." This is a legal possession of every born-again, spirit-filled believer. It should be pointed out that because we legally possess a thing does not necessarily mean we have the ability to use it. How many ladies ever bought a sewing machine before they learned to sew? How many men ever bought a set of wood working tools before they had full knowledge of how to use them? You can see the owning of something does not necessarily mean you can use it. The renewing of the mind by doing the word gives us practical experimental use of the mind of Christ.

We are told in Romans 8:29 "we are predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son." When we were born-again, our spirit was made like His: knowing the will, intentions, and power of God. We know that man is spirit, soul and body so there is more of man to be conformed to His image than just the spirit. The mind that is renewed is the soul area conformed to His image. Then, with both the spirit and soul conformed to the image of Jesus, the outward an (our actions) is conformed to His likeness and "as He is so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17).

He (Jesus) is victorious, prosperous, restful, peaceful, loving and joyful in all His thinking, talking and acting. We are to be conformed to His image so we can see that by the renewing of the mind, this same way of thinking, talking and acting is not only a legal possession but actually available to use in our daily lives. The result of renewing the mind is to bring the thinking, talking and actions of Jesus into manifestation in our lives. Then we truly are ambassadors for Christ; examples of what the normal Christian life really is.

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