

re•new

RENEW YOUR MIND

Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV: You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

This week we're beginning a new series about the idea of being "renewed" as we begin to come out of our time of "exile." We're all aware that this pandemic has changed us, but are we allowing the changes to be positive? According to God's Word we need to "Renew our Mind" so that we can be more effective as we learn to not just talk the talk, but that we actually walk the walk of our faith in Jesus Christ. Without change of mind there is never change of action. We need to examine or "think about" what we think about. Are we focused on God or are we focused on the world? Let's see what God's Word tells us to do so that we can "Renew our Mind."

1A) In Ephesians 4:22, what did Paul tell the Ephesians and us to do and why?

1B) In Ephesians 4:24, what are we supposed to do instead and why?

2A) How do we do this according to Ephesians 4:23?

2B) What do the following verses reveal about the problems we face when trying to obey this command?
2 Corinthians 4:4:

John 10:10:

3A) PERSONAL: Paul uses the illustration of changing clothes to describe what it looks like to "put off" and "put on" our old self and new self. What does this idea mean to you or what does it look like in your life?

3B) How does Romans 13:14 compare to this command and what new information are you given about what this looks like?

4A) What does Romans 12:1-2 reveal that is important about the process of renewing our mind? Notice the commands that are given and the reasons why and the benefits that come.

4B) PERSONAL: How do you think motivation - either external or internal - can help you obey these commands?

5A) PERSONAL: How would you describe the concept of “mindset?”

5B) What’s the difference between being close-minded and open-minded?

5C) PERSONAL: How would you describe your mindset- is it closed or open? Give some examples of each if you can.

Read Romans 8:6-8:

6A) What are we told about the mind in this passage?

6B) How does this passage confirm the necessity of following Paul’s commands in Ephesians 4:22-24?

Read Philippians 4:6-8:

7A) Write down all the commands we’re given in this passage and notice the benefits as well.

7B) PERSONAL: How do you think obeying these commands could help us “renew our minds?”

ACT: Our minds are extremely powerful and the way we think determines the actions that we take. So there is a constant battle going on for control of our minds. We’re fighting against Satan who continually attacks our minds and we’re fighting against the secularism or the ways of the world that we live in. We must be intentional and proactive about controlling our thoughts and focusing on “right” thinking and not just letting our minds drift wherever they might naturally go. It’s incredibly encouraging to know that our lives can literally be transformed by allowing God to “renew our minds” through His Word. It’s an ongoing daily process, but it is powerful beyond our imaginations!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- Every day this week let's look at passages that reveal the benefits of renewing our minds and the way we think.

Monday:

Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Tuesday:

Isaiah 26:3 NIV

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Wednesday:

Isaiah 55:7-9 NIV

Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Thursday:

2 Corinthians 10:5 NIV

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Friday:

Philippians 2:1-5 NIV

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Saturday:

1 Peter 5:8-10 NIV

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

Sunday:

Colossians 3:2 NIV

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

