

# ***THE RENEWED MIND***



*A New Mind* Signe Flink

***Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.***

***Romans 12:2***

There is a tendency among believers today to make a mis-take the scribes and Pharisees made in our Lord's day:

to vastly underestimate the importance of the mind in our relationship with God.

Then, and now, if people perform the correct motions on the outside, mouth the right words, follow the accept-able pattern of behavior, they are considered right with God.

Jesus stressed that the presence of God in our lives is not a matter of adhering to certain external standards of behavior. It is a matter of what's going on inside. And when Jesus talks about the inside, whether He calls it the heart or the eye, He's talking about the mind, the place where we think and will, where we imagine and plan.

***"For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man."***

***Mark 7:21-23***

Jesus is not talking about the heart that pumps blood. He's talking about our inner life, the place where we think and decide. When Jesus declares that the eye is the lamp of the body - ***(if the eye is single, the whole body is full of light)*** — He's talking about what we observe, not only with our physical eye, but with our mind.

Every time Jesus spoke He was addressing people's minds, calling them to think thoughts totally different from what they were accustomed to.

He opened their minds to understand scriptures, showed them that what went on in their minds was what they really were.

How does a person commit adultery in his heart?

-By *thinking* adultery.

How does a person covet?

-By *thinking* covetousness.

*It all begins with thinking.*

Likewise, when God comes into our lives,

when our minds begin to delight in God,  
and the ways of God,  
and the word of God,

- our outward life will follow.

We break conformity with the old system of this world by changing our thinking. We enter into the realm of God's kingdom by allowing our minds, our inner life, to be constantly re-newed.

***"...be transformed by the renewal of your mind,  
that you may prove what is the will of God,  
what is good and acceptable and perfect."***

It would be nice if one could go to some spiritual hospital, have spiritual surgery, and come out thinking godly thoughts from then on. But the renewing of the mind is a thing we have to apply ourselves to daily as long as we live. Just as we take up our cross daily and follow the lamb.

Specifically, a renewed mind;

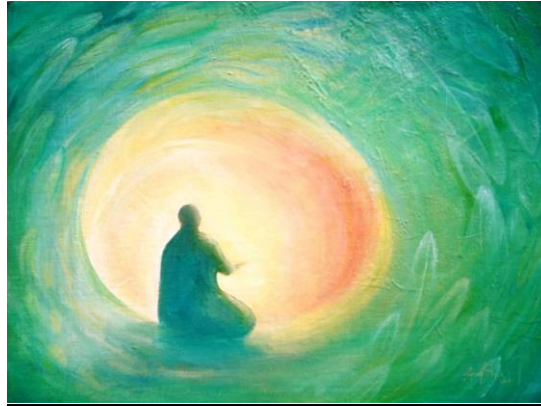
### **1. Is a mind that actively reaches out toward God, a mind that thinks!**

***"Mary kept all these things and pondered***  
(thought about them in her heart.)

***"Beware of false prophets ... you shall know them by their fruit."***

...this requires thought!

***"Be not unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."***



*In the Secret Place of the Most High... Signe Flink*

... an idle, lazy, self-satisfied, opinionated mind cannot be in-spired!

***“Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves”***

The disciples of Jesus - male and female - may not have had much formal training but they were thinkers, their minds were active, asking questions, trying to find out.

The tendency in Christendom today is for people to swallow things without thinking, and call it faith. A well-known teacher comes along with some new insight and they swallow it whole,

...forever devouring some new teaching

- *without thought,*

...endlessly clinging to some old opinion

- *without thought,*

... or submitting to some self-proclaimed authority,

- *without thought.*

Why is it people so often prefer some soothing pre--chewed piece of Christian literature to wrestling with scripture?

- Because scripture requires thought!

Every word Jesus speaks (in the Old Testament as well as the New) requires thought.

***"A man had two sons. The first said, 'I will not,' but afterward repented and went. The second said, 'I go, Sir,' but did not go. Which did the will of his father?"***

Think! Think! Think!

The parable of the virgins, the parable of the talents, in fact all our Lord's parables are a challenge to thought. You don't need an IQ of 150.

## **2. A renewed mind is a mind that is ever choosing the way of the Spirit over the way of the flesh.**



*Do not Be Conformed... Chris Powers*

***For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:5-6***

***Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds; but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed.***

***II Corinthians 3:15-16***

Every day there has to be a turning of the mind.

If the clock in your car fails to keep time, you reset it, and reset it, and reset it, until it stays on time.

So we keep turning the mind toward the Spirit until it stays on the Spirit.

The fact that our mind wanders is part of our old nature — the veil that lies over the mind of the Gentiles as well as the Jew. To bring the new nature into our mind we have to direct it into truth, away from the lie, — turn it!

- If our mind wanders while we're praying, we reset our mind.
- If our mind is caught up in one of the delusions of this world, we reset it.
- We take hold of our mind and turn it away from vanity, to glory.

As time passes the ability of our mind to recognize when it's being misled, and the power to turn from darkness to light, becomes stronger and stronger until our mind points to God like a compass points north.

## **3. A renewed mind is a mind that takes the form of a servant.**

***Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.***



*Be the Servant Rik Berry*

***Philippians 2:5-8***

***"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."***

***"He who would be the greatest among you let him be the servant of all."***

***"I am among you as one who serves."***

...not a heroic servant with someone keeping notes on all the wonderful things you're doing so they can write a book about your life and make it into a movie.

- Just a plain servant, a real servant.

When we begin to see that serving is a function and purpose for being here, we have tremendous liberty.

The mind of this world is vanity.

The mind of heaven is mercy which ever takes the form of a servant.

#### **4. A renewed mind is a mind that delights in pleasing God.**



*Renewing of the Mind..Rik Berry*

***So I said, "Here I am! I'm coming to you as a sacrifice, for in the prophetic scrolls of your book you have written about me. I delight to fulfill your will, my God, for your living words are written upon the pages of my heart."***

***Psalm 40:7-8***

For us it begins and ends with worship. As our minds are renewed in the Spirit of God we begin to find supreme joy in worshipping and praising God,

- for His goodness,
- for this mercy of the Lamb which is forever,
- for His revelation of Himself in Jesus,
- for the gift of His Spirit.

And as our hearts rise in worship and our tongues are set free in thanksgiving and praise we now, with renewed minds, begin to prove in daily living what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Now we begin to taste the joy of the Son in doing the Father's pleasure, the joy of the angels in ministering to God.

Even the hard things, the monotonous things, the painful things become our delight as we serve God with a renewed mind.

***Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.***

***Romans 12:2***

The believers who mount up on wings like the eagles,

who run and never get weary,

who walk and never faint,

are those who see the importance of waiting on the Lord with their minds.

God help us to renew our minds this day and every day, until the only mind we have is –

the free mind,

the clear mind,

the perfect mind of a child of God.



*Lead On... Rik Berry*

Prayer:

*Yes, Lord, we seek these free, clear minds that you ask of us. In your mercy, help us to transform our minds, change our thinking. Give us the mind of Christ; Servant minds, merciful and obedient. Rescue us from the thoughts that defile us. Help us to set any thought aside that prevents us from focusing on you, drawing close to you, in your secret place. Remove this veil that separates us from you. May we keep resetting our minds whenever our minds wander, whenever the lie tries to draw us away, help us turn our thoughts back to your truth. Give us the strength to continue turning our minds from darkness to light until our minds are locked on you. May our minds eventually be so focused on you, that our thoughts are saturated with thankfulness and praise for your goodness, your mercy, and we are set free to experience true heavenly joy. Amen.*

*REB- Original publication date unknown. This is found in the booklet "The Renewed Mind"... which can be mailed out upon request. All art by prior permission. Signe Flink's gallery can be found on deviantart.com /signesandelin; Chris Power's work at Fullofeyes.com*

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THE LAMB  
WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

