

# Renewing our Minds - Part One

## (A Six Part Series)

### Introduction

This is a six part study on the importance of renewing our minds. Be diligent to carefully go through all six parts and put them together to form a complete message about this subject. Renewing our minds is a fundamental part of the Christian experience. You will find the study is useful for personal or group participation. It is a key to our growth and success in living. We will take our inspiration for this study from Paul's great, wisdom filled words to the Romans.

*(Romans 12:2 NIV) "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."*

### Renovation

Romans 12:1 tells us we are to "*sacrifice*" our bodies. However, we see in Romans 12:2 that we are to "*renew*" our minds. We do not sacrifice our minds. God created us to be freethinking beings. The privilege we have as Christians, is to use our minds and make choices. So why does God tell us we have to "*renew*" our minds? The Greek word used here means "*renovation*." Think about renovating a house. What does that mean? What does that require? We have to get rid of the old, and replace it with the new.

### The Only two Ways of Thinking - Natural and Spiritual

There are only two ways of thinking - natural and spiritual. When we are talking about renewing our minds, we are speaking of replacing our worldly, natural ways of thinking. We live in an "*evil*" world (Galatians 1:4 NKJV). During our lives, we establish patterns of thinking. These are based on events, family relationships, the influence of friends, ideas that we learn at home and in school, and a big influence now, the media. These patterns are not necessarily godly patterns. We all have thoughts in our minds that do not line up with the Word of God. We all have ways of thinking that need to be changed. We are to replace our natural thinking with spiritual thinking - carnal information out and spiritual information in.

*(1 Corinthians 2:9-16 NKJV) "But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." {10} But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. {11} For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. {12} Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. {13} These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. {14} But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. {15} But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. {16} For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ."*

## The Importance of Renewed Minds

We are going to look at six reasons why it is important to renew our minds.

**Reason One: It is important to renew our minds so that we can think the way God thinks.**

*(Romans 11:33 NKJV) "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the **wisdom** and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"*

We need God's wisdom and understanding so we can have lives of success and significance for His Kingdom. Take the time to study Proverbs 8. See what you can learn about the benefits of having God's wisdom and understanding. Share this study with friends.

*(Proverbs 8:1-35 NKJV) "Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice? {2} She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, Beside the way, where the paths meet. {3} She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, At the entrance of the doors: {4} To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men. {5} O you simple ones, understand prudence, And you fools, be of an understanding heart. {6} Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things; {7} For my mouth will speak truth;*

*Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. {8} All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them. {9} They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge. {10} Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold; {11} For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her. {12} I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion. {13} The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate. {14} Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength. {15} By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. {16} By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth. {17} I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me. {18} Riches and honor are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness. {19} My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver. {20} I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, {21} That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries. {22} "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. {23} I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth. {24} When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water. {25} Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth; {26} While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primeval dust of the world. {27} When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, {28} When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep, {29} When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, {30} Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, {31} Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men. {32} Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways. {33} Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. {34} Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. {35} For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD; 36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."*

Additional Scriptures: *Ephesians 1:17-19; Colossians 1:9; Colossians 2:2-3; 2 Timothy 2:7; James 3:17; Psalm 119:34,73,99,104,125, 130, 144, 169; Proverbs 1:1-7; Proverbs 2; Proverbs 4; Proverbs 5:1-2; Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 14:33*