

Renewing our Minds - Part Four

(A Six Part Series)

First Half

Why is it Important to Renew our Minds?

Review - Parts One through Three

The reason we renew our minds is so that...

Reason One - we can think the way God thinks.

Reason Two - we can relate to one another as Christians.

Reason Three - we can be an example of Christ to everyone that comes in contact with us.

Reason Four - It is important to renew our minds so that we can have an undivided heart toward God

Today we are going to talk about our “hearts.” The center and depth of who we are - the vital, essential part of each of us. We should have an assurance, a confidence, in the very heart of our being about being a Christian. Renewing our minds helps us to have an undivided heart.

(Proverbs 4:4 NKJV) “...Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.”

1. What goes on in your heart is of primary importance.

*(Proverbs 23:7 NKJV) “For **as he thinks in his heart, so is he.** “Eat and drink!” he says to you, But his heart is not with you.”*

*(Matthew 15:18 NKJV) “But **those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.**”*

2. You must guard your heart so it does not “go astray:”

*(Hebrews 3:10-13 NIV) “ That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, **‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’** {11} So I declared on oath in my anger, **‘They shall never enter my rest.’** {12} See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving **heart that turns away***

from the living God. {13} *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness"*

The Greek word in Hebrews 3:10 for "astray" is "planao," which means to roam (from safety, truth, or virtue); to go astray; to err; wander, ...out of the way."

(Psalms 12:1-2 NKJV) "Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. {2} With flattering lips and a double heart they speak."

3. Your heart must be steadfast.

*(Psalms 57:7 NKJV) "My heart is **steadfast**, O God, my heart is **steadfast**; I will sing and give praise." (Also Psalm 108:1)*

(Psalms 112:7-8 NKJV) "He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. {8} His heart is established..."

The Greek word for "steadfast" is "kuwn," which means "to stand erect;" to be "certain; fixed," or "set (aright, fast, forth)."

*(James 5:8 NKJV) "You also be patient. **Establish your hearts**, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."*

The Greek word used here for "establish" is "sterizo," which means "to set fast," or literally, "to turn resolutely in a certain direction." It also means "to confirm" or "strengthen."

When the Bible speaks of "hearts," it points us toward our thoughts and feelings (our minds).

4. You are responsible to purify your heart so it is clean and clear.

*(James 4:8 NKJV) "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded."*

*(1 Timothy 1:3-6 NIV) "As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer {4} nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work--which is by faith. {5} The goal of this command is love, which comes from **a pure heart** and a good conscience*

and a sincere faith. {6} Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk.”

*(2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV) “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a **pure heart.**”*

(Psalms 15:1-2 NKJV) “... Who may dwell in Your holy hill? {2} He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;”

Questions to consider

1. How has renewing your mind affected your heart?
2. What can you do daily to guard your heart?
3. What do you do about doubt in your heart?