

12. God's Word Renews Our Mind

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could understand God's mind concerning any problem or concerning the solution to a problem!

Let us turn to the Word of God in Romans 12:2. Here the Holy Spirit is speaking to our hearts, and I want you to listen very carefully - God is trying to speak to your heart ; "Don't be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." We see here that God wants us to be transformed inwardly. He is speaking here about the renewing of our mind. We have considered, in one of the earlier studies, referring to Genesis 1, how the Word of God and the Holy Spirit moved over the chaotic earth and, how out of that chaotic situation produced order, form, beauty, light and every good thing until, at the end, God Himself could say, 'this is excellent, this is very good' (Gen. 1:26).

Do you know that is just a faint picture of what God wants to do in our life also - to take our chaotic, formless, and dark life and allow the Holy Spirit to work upon us. Let the Word of God sink into us and change us inwardly so much that, at the end, He can look into our lives and say, 'excellent'. In other words, we, who were such wretched, corrupt, and sinful creatures, full of bitterness, envy, and evil in so many forms, are so radically transformed by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit that we begin to manifest the nature of Christ Himself. That is the meaning of renewing of our minds. To put it in another way, God wants our mind to begin to think the ways He thinks.

When our minds are not renewed, even if we are

12. 神的話語使我們的思想煥然一新

在面對難題的時候,如果我們能瞭解神是怎樣看待,或神會怎樣來解決這問題,那該有多好!

讓我們來看一下羅馬書 12 章第 2 節。這裡聖靈對我們的心說(請您聽仔細),神在對著我們的心說話:「不要效法這個世界,而要更新心思從而改變,這樣你能夠察驗什麼是神善良、純全、可喜悅的旨意。」這裡我們看到,神想要我們有內在的改變。祂在這裡講關於我們思想的更新。我們在前面曾學習過,創世紀第 1 章,神的話語和祂的聖靈如何在混亂的地上運行,並如何在混亂中製造出有秩序的、有形的、美好的、光明的,以及一切好的東西,一直到末了,神自己說:「這是極好的。」(創世紀 1 章 26 節)

你知道嗎,這僅是一個很淺的畫面,描述神想要在我們的生命裡做的——除掉混亂、無形和黑暗,並允許聖靈在我們的身上做工。請讓神的話語深深的植入我們,使我們在裡面有如此之大的改變,以至於最後神可以看著我們的生命說:「好極了。」換句話,我們這些卑劣、腐化、滿是罪惡,充滿了怨恨、嫉妒和各種邪惡的生物,在神的話語和聖靈的感動下,發生了徹底的轉變,以至於在我們的身上開始顯示出基督祂自己的天性。這就是更新我們思想的意思。換種說法,神希望我們開始以祂的方式去思考。

在我們的想法沒被更新以前,即使我們有重生的生命,

born again and have our sins forgiven, we may still think the way worldly people think. Unfortunately this is true with a lot of believers, because they don't grow. Their minds think exactly like the people in the world concerning money, pretty women, property, concerning position and honour, and the way they look at their enemies and everything else. But God uses all these things in a different way.

What does it mean to be transformed? It means to be changed into the likeness of Christ. Where does it take place? It doesn't take place in our physical appearance. God is not in the business of physically making us look like Jesus. That would be of no use. He is in the business of changing our inner character and life into the likeness of Christ. How does it happen? He does it through renewing our mind - changing our way of thinking. He makes us think the way He thinks through the Word of God.

In the Bible we have God's way of thinking. If you want to know God's way of thinking, read the Bible. If you want to know what God thinks of money, what God thinks of adultery, theft, cheating others, jealousy, selfishness or unselfishness, humility or pride, or any matter, just read the Bible, the answer is there. When Jesus came to earth, He was called the Word of God. We are told the Word became flesh. This means that if you want to know what God thinks about anything, about any subject, you got to look at the life of Jesus and you will have the answer!

There the Word of God is not just in a written form but manifested in human form as well. This is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament, they had God's Word in the written form. There were the Ten Commandments written on two pieces of rock and

並得到了對我們一切罪的赦免,我們仍然會像世間的人一樣去思考。非常不幸的是,很多信徒至今也還這樣的。他們的想法和世人完全一樣,關心金錢、美女、財產,關心地位和榮譽,還有他們看待敵人和其它一切的態度。然而神看待這一切的方式是完全不同的。

轉變指的是什麼呢?它指的是,轉變到像基督的樣式。這轉變會在這裡發生?不是我們的外表。神不是要把我們的外表變得像耶穌。那是完全沒用的。祂要使我們內在的個性和生命變得像基督。而這又是怎樣進行的呢?祂通過更新我們的思想——也就是轉變我們的思維方式。通過祂的話語,神使我們用祂的方式去思考。

《聖經》裡有神的思維方式。你若想瞭解神的想法,就去讀聖經。你若想知道神如何看待金錢,如何看待姦淫、偷盜、欺騙、嫉妒、自私或無私、謙卑或驕傲,任何這些,只要去讀聖經,答案就在那。當耶穌來到世上,祂被稱作是神的道(即話語)。我們都聽過「道成肉身」(即話語成為肉身)。這就是說,如果我們想知道任何神的思維,無論關於什麼,你只要去看耶穌是怎樣生活的,就可以找到答案!

在那,神的道(話語)不止是文字形式,並且還以人的形象來顯明。這是新約時代與舊約時代的不同。在舊約時代,他們只有文字形式的神的道(話語)。那時候是寫在石板上的十誡,和寫在許多卷軸上的律法。但是當耶穌來到世上,我們有了以人的形象顯示的神的道(話語)。來讀以人的形象所親身表明的神的道(話語),比

there was. The Law written on many scrolls of parchment. But when Jesus came, we had the Word of God in human form. It is much easier to read the Word of God in human form than it is to read the Word of God in a scroll of parchment or a book.

God wants to make each one of us demonstrations of the Word of God written in human form. How does that happen? - Through God renewing our way of thinking, so that we begin to think like He thinks. When we begin to think like He thinks, we begin to act like He would act. You see, our whole inner life controls our external behaviour, and that is why God's Word says, 'Don't be conformed to the world.'

Now when we are born into the world, as little babies, we have no particular way of thinking. A new born baby is not worldly because it doesn't have a worldly way of thinking - it is just born. But, as it grows, its nature develops - that evil corrupt nature it has inherited from Adam grows seeing the world around it; in the way people live selfishly; the way we are surrounded by people who tell lies. As that baby develops, its way of thinking becomes exactly like everybody else in the world: selfish, seeking its own, proud, arrogant, jealous of others who are better, and so many things like that. Therefore it harms others, hurts others.

But when Christ comes in, His desire for the born again believer is to change all that. A new birth is like a baby being born all over again. Now we should allow this new life to develop and take over our way of thinking so that we begin to think like God thinks. Gradually, as we allow our thinking - the patterns of thinking to change, we will find that, when we face life situations we know God's answer to those problems.

從卷軸或書上讀神的道(話語)容易許多。

神想要我們每個人都以自己肉身的形象來彰顯神的道(話語)。這是怎麼才能發生的呢?——就是通過讓神來更新我們的思想,從而我們像祂那樣去看待和思考一切。當我們開始像祂一樣去思考,我們會開始像祂一樣去行事。你看,是我們裡面的生命在指揮著外在的表現,這就是為什麼神說:「不要效法這個世界。」

當我們在這世上降生時,只是個小嬰兒,我們那時還沒有什麼特定的思維模式。一個新生兒一定不是世俗的,因為它剛出生,還沒有世俗的思維方式。然而,當他/她逐漸長大,個性開始發展——那罪的天性,從亞當那遺傳來的罪惡墮落的天性開始漸長,看這個包圍著他/她的世界,人們如何自私地活著,被滿是謊言的人所包圍。當這嬰兒逐漸長大,他/她的思維開始就像世上的其他人一樣:自私、只為自己奪利、驕傲、傲慢、嫉妒任何比自己強的,等等等等。既傷害自己,又傷害別人。

可是當基督來到你心裡,祂渴望重生的信徒有完全的改變。屬靈的重生就像嬰兒重新出生一次。現在我們要讓這個新的生命長大,並取代我們曾經的思維模式,去用神的方式來思考。逐漸地,當我們讓自己的思維模式改變,將會發現,我們在面對生活裡各種狀況的時候,會瞭解神對這些問題會給出怎樣的答案。

Now, when you come to a crisis situation in your life, and you say 'Oh God what shall I do, I want to know your will.' You have come to a crossroad in life. You have to take this decision or that decision, but you don't know what to do. Well, here it says in Romans 12:2 we can know God's will in such a situation. Now if, during the years preceding your coming to that crossroad or that crisis, you had allowed the Holy Spirit through God's word to change your way of thinking, at that crisis point in your life you will be able to "prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

But, if you had been a careless Christian and you had not cared to let the way of God change your way of thinking, you are going to come to that crisis in your life and not know what to do. You will have to run to some older godly brother asking for advice and maybe he can give you good advice.

But do you know that is the Old Testament way? In the Old Testament the only man who knew God's will was the prophet, if he was a true prophet. They were very rare and sometimes, for centuries on end, there would be no true prophet. But if there happened to be a true prophet around, you will have to go to him and ask what to do in a particular situation. Even the kings had to go to the prophets. Then the prophet will find God's will and tell the king or you, if you had asked him.

In the New Testament, the Bible says, 'You don't have to teach everyone his fellow citizens, saying, 'Know the Lord', because all will know me personally, from the least to the greatest" (Heb. 8:11). So one of the privileges we have (because the Holy Spirit, God Himself has now come to dwell in our hearts) is that from within we can know the mind of God without going to a prophet. You don't

那麼現在,當我們面對生活裡的一個困境時說:「神啊,我該怎麼辦?我想知道你的意願是怎樣的。」當你面對人生的十字路口時,不知道該如何是好。羅馬書的 12 章第 2 節告訴我們這樣的時候該如何瞭解神的心意。假如現在經過了很多年的經歷後,你來到了那個十字路口,面對著生活的危機,你已經允許聖靈通過神的話來改變了你的思維方式,那麼在這個生活的危機面前,你就能夠「察驗什麼是神善良、純全、可喜悅的心意」(羅馬書 12 章 2 節)。

但是,如果你一直是個漫不經心的基督徒,從來沒在意過要神來改變你的思維,你將會在面對那個危機的時候,不知所措。這時候,你需要去更加近神的兄弟那裡徵詢意見,也許能夠得到好的建議。

但你知道嗎?那是舊約時代的模式。那時候只有先知了解神的心意,當然,如果他是真先知的話。那時候的真先知非常少,甚至幾個世紀,都沒有真先知。但如果那有一個真的先知,你可以跑去問他如何面對一個特定的境況。即使做王的也要去問先知。爾後先知會尋求神的心意,並告訴王或是你,如果你問過他。

《聖經》上說:在新約時代「你們不必每個人都去教導自己的鄉鄰,說'你該認識主',因為從最不起眼的到最了不起的,都必親身認識我」(希伯來書 8 章 11 節)。因此我們所擁有的一個優先權,就是我們可以在裡面認識神,無需尋求于先知(因為聖靈,就是神自己,會住在我們的心裡)。現在你不需要去先知、牧師或是長老那去尋求神的心意。我們從羅馬書 12 章第 2 節看到「如果你的思想更新了,你可以自己求證神的心意。」這

have to go to a prophet now, or a pastor, or an elder to find the will of God. We see from Romans 12:2 that 'If your mind is renewed, you can prove the will of God yourself.' This is wonderful. You can have a direct hotline with God - a direct connection with God Himself.

It is very important that you don't wait until a crisis comes before you begin to seek God. Some believers turn to God only when there is a crisis. And when things start to go smoothly they forget all about maintaining a close walk with God until the next crisis, again they turn to God. Well, such believers are not going to grow. Whether there is a crisis or not, whether there are problems or not, we should develop this habit of opening our mind to be influenced by the teachings of God's word, particularly from the New Testament. Then we begin to understand how God thinks, what God's attitude towards different things is.

The Bible says we need to meditate on His Word. We also look at the life of Jesus Christ where that Word of God was demonstrated in human form. So, if we allow the Holy Spirit to show us, from the Scriptures, the beauty and glory of Jesus and the way He lived on earth, then we will have an understanding of what God is like. The Bible says that one of the purposes with which Jesus came to the earth was to explain the Father (Jn. 1:18). So, when you look at the life of Jesus Christ, you know what God the Father is like. When you read the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit shows us how Jesus lived, how Jesus reacted to different situations, how Jesus behaved in different circumstances and, gradually, we get that explanation in our own mind of what God is like. This way the Holy Spirit changes our way of thinking, if we submit to Him.

是極妙的。你可以撥通神的「熱線」——直接和神通話。

不要等到面臨危機再去尋求神,這一點是非常重要的。有些信徒只有在面臨危機的時候,才開始尋求神。當生活平順的時候,就忘了要保持與神的親近和同行,直到下一次危機,才又轉向神。這樣的信徒是無法成長的。無論是否有危機,是否出現問題,我們都應該養成習慣,打開思想去讓神的道(話語),尤其是新約,來影響我們。這樣我們就開始理解神的思考方式,以及神面對不同問題時的態度。

《聖經》說,我們需要冥想祂的話語。而且我們也從耶穌基督的人生,看到了神之道的肉身表述。因此,我們若允許聖靈把經文的含義顯示給我們,顯示給我們耶穌的美好和榮耀,以及祂怎樣在這個世上生活的,我們就從而能夠理解神是如何的。《聖經》說耶穌來世上的目的之一,就是將父表明給我們(約翰福音 1 章 18 節)。因此,當我們看著耶穌基督的生活,就明白父神是如何的。當你讀經的時候,聖靈為我們揭示耶穌基督是如何生活的,耶穌對各種情形做出何樣的反應,耶穌在不同的境況中是何樣的舉止,逐漸地,我們在頭腦裡開始明白神是怎麼樣的。如果我們順服于祂,聖靈會通過這樣的方式來改變我們的思想。

Gradually, the sinful person that you and I are, get changed into the likeness of Christ. Then, one day, when we face a crisis, when we come into a particular problem, we know almost immediately how Jesus would react here, how Jesus would behave, what decision Jesus would take. Then we take the same decision, and it is going to be right.

I want to invite you, if you have never done it before, from today to develop a habit of opening your mind to read God's Word and meditate on it, allowing the Holy Spirit to show you the glory of Jesus in the Scripture, so that you can see how He reacted to situations, how He behaved towards His enemies, how He behaved towards people, how He conducted Himself. Pray saying, 'Spirit of God, change me into that likeness.' Then you will find the will of God in different situations without having to go to a prophet or a pastor.

逐漸地,那個充滿了罪性的你我,開始變得有了基督的形象。當某一天,我們又面臨一些危機,或特定問題的時候,我們幾乎馬上就能知道耶穌在面對這個情況時會做出怎樣的反應,會是怎樣的表現,祂會做出什麼決定。爾後我們就也那樣的做決定,就將會是正確的。

我想要邀請你,如果你還從來沒有這樣做過,那麼從今天開始,去養成這樣的習慣,打開思想去讀並冥想神的話語,讓聖靈把耶穌的榮耀為你從經文裡揭示出來,這樣你可以看到祂怎樣應對各種境況,如何面對祂的敵人,如何面對祂的子民,以及如何自我管理。請祈禱「神的聖靈,請把我變成那個樣子。」爾後你將在不同的境況中找到神的心意,而無需求助於先知或是牧師。