**A RENEWED MIND**

**SCRIPTURE READING…**

**ROMANS 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

**PRAYER**

**FOREWORD…. Many Christians often forfeit much of God’s will in their lives because of not allowing the Spirit of God to enter into their lives and begin a process of regeneration especially in their mind. Many truthfully allow God to begin the process but then when God touches certain things that rub against the grain of their lives and their way of thinking they suddenly move back and it feels as though they have touched the heat of a fire. Here is where God wants to really begin the process, where it will affect the most…THE MIND. The mind is where most Christians want to have most control over their lives but unless a change takes place they will continue to live lives that will be in constant turmoil especially over the things of God… in the above scripture Paul says to the Romans “not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”…what does all this mean….??**

**Let’s break it all down….. What exactly is transformation…?**

 **A. TRANSFORMATION DEFINED...**

 **1. The Greek word is “metamorphoo”**

 **a. meaning…"to change into another form" - Vine**

 **b. From which comes the word “metamorphosis”**

 **c. A change of form, as when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly**

 **2. In the NT, this word is used to describe:**

 **a. What happened to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration –**

[***Mt 17:1-2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2017.1-2)***11Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.12For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.13For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.14But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***

 **b. It is also What is to happen to Christians in their service to**

 **God –**

[***Ro 12:1-2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2012.1-2)***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.2And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

 **B. TRANSFORMATION DEPICTED...**

 **1. Christians are to "undergo a complete change, which under the**

 **power of God, they will find a new expression in character and**

 **conduct" (Vines commentary.)**

 **2. In other words We are to become like Christ!**

 **a. The purpose of discipleship and our salvation –**

[***Lk 6:40***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%206.40)***; 40The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.***

[***Ro 8:29***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.29)***29For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.***

 **b. The goal of Christian living.**

[***Col 3:9-10***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.9-10)***9Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;10And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:***

 **c. Slowly, but surely, we are transformed to be like Christ**

[***2Co 3:18***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%203.18)***18But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

 **3. Note that Paul uses the passive voice in our text –**

[***Ro 12:2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2012.2)***And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

 **a. Indicating that transformation is something we allow to be**

 **done to us**

 **b. Not something we do by our own power alone**

 **c. We submit to God’s power, and by His grace we are "changed**

 **into another form" and become a "new creation" –**

[***2Co 5:17***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%205.17)***17Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

 **C. TRANSFORMATION DEVELOPED...**

 **1. Begins with being in Christ (**[**2Co 5:17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%205.17)**), which requires baptism**

 **a. Whereby we put on Christ –**

[***Ga 3:27***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%203.27)***27For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***

 **b. Which is a washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy**

 **Spirit –**

[***Tit 3:5***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Tit%203.5)***5Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;***

 **2. Continues by renewing our minds –**

***Rom 12:2 2And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

***[Ep 4:20-24](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%204.20-24%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)20But ye have not so learned Christ;21If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:22That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;23And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;24And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.***

1. **Setting our minds on things above –**

[***Col 3:1-2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.1-2)***If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.2Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.***

1. **Setting our minds on the things of the Spirit –**

[***Ro 8:5***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.5)***5For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.***

 **3. With our minds "renewed" we can experience a true**

 **transformation!**

1. **Putting off the old man and putting on the new man –**

[***Col 3:2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.2)***, 2Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.***

***Col 3:***[***5-10***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.5-10) ***5Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:6For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:7In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.8But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.9Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;10And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:***

1. **Living according to the Spirit.**

[***Ro 8:5***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.5)***5For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.***

**,**[***13***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.13)***13For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.***

 **4. The process of transformation is really quite simple.**

[**Ac 2:42**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%202.42)**42And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

 **a. Studying and contemplating God and His Word**

 **b. Keeping in regular communication with God via prayer**

 **c. Involving your mind in spiritual worship via frequent**

 **assembling with others**

**When the mind is completely renewed then Christians will be able to fulfill what Paul wrote by the leading of the Holy Spirit….**

1. **BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD**

**Beloved, Our lives have been guided by the patterns that we have been exposed to, some have lived long lives and much needs to be changed others that have lived shorter lives have less change to take place but either way change needs to take place…..The world has much to offer especially to the eyes, the flesh, and life itself, therefore we need a new sense of direction…. Here is where much of the problems of life is found…. Conformity!!! and there you have it, most people by nature are people who most of the time love to conform, they act like others.**

 **A. CONFORMITY DEFINED...**

  **1. To conform to another’s pattern.**

 **2. E.g., they desire to be like someone else.**

 **3. A conformist is often afraid to be different, who feels a need**

 **to be like everyone else.**

 **B. CONFORMITY DEPICTED...**

 **1. Doing what others do, imitating how others talk, wearing what**

 **others wear, repeating what others say…etc.etc.**

 **2. Conformity occurs most often during adolescence, but frequently in**

 **Adults.**

 **3. It is often further Complicated by advertisers marketing their**

 **products, encouraging conformity!**

 **C. CONFORMITY has it’s DANGERS...**

1. **The majority is rarely right**
2. **Most are on the path to destruction –Jesus said…**

[***Mt 7:13***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%207.13) ***13Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:***

1. **The way to a real life is straight and narrow, which few prefer**

 **to follow because life has much to offer! Money, Fame, Fortune**

 **you name it, it’s out there! Jesus also said….**

[***Mt 7:14***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%207.14)***14Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.***

 **2. Conformity easily leads to doing things you know are totally wrong.**

[***1Co 15:33***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%2015.33)***33Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.***

1. **Friends in a car for a joyride, and one begins popping pills, and the rest is history!**
2. **Men and women attend business functions, where alcohol is served**

**and consumed.**

 **3. Listen, Conformity to things of this world will separate you from**

 **God!**

[***1Jn 2:15-17***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%202.15-17)***15Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.***

 **a. By giving way to the lust of the flesh (immorality)**

 **b. By succumbing to the lust of the eyes (materialism)**

 **c. By yielding to the pride of life (arrogance)**

**[You will never discern God’s will trying to be like those in the world.**

**That is very much the opposite of God’s will for you! You will be able**

**to discern God’s will for you if you will...allow your Mind to be Renewed and transformed. It’s that simple!!!**

**CONCLUSION**

**1. Discerning God’s will for you does not come through conformity to the**

 **world...**

 **a. Letting the world determine your standard of dress, speech and**

 **conduct**

 **b. Letting worldly people influence you with their evil behavior**

[***1Co 15:33***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%2015.33)***33Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.***

**2. Discerning God’s will for you comes through a remarkable**

 **transformation...**

 **a. With the aid of the Spirit of God in conversion and regeneration**

 **b. With God’s word renewing your mind so that you may discern good**

 **and evil - cf.**

[***He 5:11-14***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%205.11-14)***11Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.12For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.13For every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.14But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***

**Are you willing to let God and His Word transform your life in doing His**

**will...?**