

RENEWING OUR MINDS

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Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 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.

(Romans 12:1-2)

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Christianity is “backwards”!!

**It is backwards to how people of this world “see”
and “do” things.**

RENEWING OUR MINDS

**People here see the “sun rise” every morning
(we know the sun doesn’t rise).**

**God looks down from heaven
and sees the galaxies, the stars, the sun, the
moon, the earth, and all its inhabitants.**

RENEWING OUR MINDS

**People here see the “sun set” every evening.
(we know the sun doesn’t set).**

**God looks down from heaven
and listens to the heart prayers of mankind.**

**He looks deep into their hearts and knows their
pains, struggles, failures, heart cries, joys, hopes,
dreams, and prayers.**

RENEWING OUR MINDS

The best man can do when they are hurt
is to seek revenge.

Yet, God requires us to
“turn the other cheek”
when someone strikes us or hurts us
(just like Jesus did).

RENEWING OUR MINDS

We see the wise and learned person and admire them and want to be like him or her.

God says,

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

(1 Corinthians 3:19-20)

RENEWING OUR MINDS

We read the Ten Commandments
and think we aren't too bad of a person.

"I'm not as bad as him or her."

God's Spirit reveals the truth to us and we realize
that:

The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

"I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind,
to reward a man according to his conduct,
according to what his deeds deserve."

(Jeremiah 17:9-10)

RENEWING OUR MINDS

We go to church,
read our Bible,
pray,
even get baptized.

And Jesus says to us after all our “religious acts”
(like He said to the “religious Nicodemus”) :

"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of
God unless he is born again."

(John 3:3)

RENEWING OUR MINDS

We need to see things how God sees them.

Does God see us as saved?

Does God see us as His child?

Does God's Holy Spirit live in us?

Are we truly born again of God's Spirit?

If we are not, we need to get on our knees, agree with God that we are sinners, confess our sin, and trust in Christ's death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Then, ask Jesus to come into our heart and fill us with His Holy Spirit. Then, trust in Jesus' resurrection from the dead and victory over death for our eternal home with Him in heaven!!

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If we have truly done business with God
– then we are His child and we are going to heaven
because of what Jesus has done for us.

If we haven't repented of our sins, trusted in Christ's
shed blood on the cross for the forgiveness of our
sins, and asked Jesus into our heart
to be our Lord and Savior
then we may still be doing "acts of righteousness"
but we are still children of the devil.

RENEWING OUR MINDS

We are either God's child or a child of the devil.

We are either born again or dead in our sins.

We are either going to heaven or going to hell.

**(nobody deserves heaven
and if only one person was to get into heaven
– that would still be God's grace).**

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Once we have settled if we are saved, God's child,
born of God's Spirit, and going to heaven
then we need to begin to make our Father proud of us.
We need to respond in love and obedience to God.

The first thing we need to do it be baptized.

Remember, baptism is an outward sign
of what has happened inside of us.

It is our declaration to the world
that we are no longer serving the devil but God.

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The next thing we need to do is:

Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit ever day and throughout the day so we can have power over sin.

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We also need to:

**Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit ever day
so we can pray to our heavenly Father
in Jesus' Name.**

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And we need to:

Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit ever day

so we can read our Bible to

- understand God's will for us**
- understand "who we are as His children".**
- understand God's wonderful promises for us.**
 - understand how we can live
in a sinful world in God's power.**

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**Certainly, this is of utmost importance too:
Ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit ever day
so we can pray to God to:**

- worship Him as our Lord, Savior and friend.**
 - hear God's voice and listen to Him.**
 - ask Him for things that please Him.**
- ask Him for His Holy Spirit for power each day
over sin, the world, the devil,
and our fleshly desires that war within us.**

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The world is going to laugh at us as Christians.

They think we are foolish.

They think we are wasting our time.

**They think it is silly
that we don't sin with them.**

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But God has said something very important:

For the message of the cross is foolishness
to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved
it is the power of God.

(1 Corinthians 1:18)

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And again, God through Paul, has said:

For what I received I passed on to you
as of first importance:

that Christ died for our sins according to the
Scriptures, that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day
according to the Scriptures,
(1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

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LET'S PRAY:

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