

Extreme Life Makeover

"Father Knows Best"

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Sunday, May 24, 2009

- What are the things that improve/turn our life around? We must be disciplined in our mind! Change the way we think! What fills your mind will fill your heart. Fill your mind with God's thoughts!
- Last week we talked about when we are born again our spirit is renewed, but our mind and flesh are not. That is our responsibility and this is where spiritual growth begins.
- We should be constantly moving forward/progressing in our lives!
- **Ephesians 4:17-24 (Living Bible)** Let me say this, then, speaking for the Lord: Live no longer as the unsaved do, for they are blinded and confused. Their hearts are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds against him, and they cannot understand his ways. 19) They don't care anymore about right and wrong and have given themselves over to impure ways. They stop at nothing, being driven by their evil minds and reckless lusts. 20) But that isn't the way Christ taught you! 21) If you have really heard His voice and learned from him the truths concerning himself, 22) then throw off your old evil nature -- the old you that was a partner in your evil ways -- rotten through and through, full of lust and sham. 23) Now your attitudes and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better. 24) Yes, you must be a new and different person, holy and good. Clothe yourself with this new nature.
- Verse 22: Throw off your old evil nature. Verse 24: You must be a new and different person, holy and good. Clothe yourself with this new nature.
- Even when we are born again, we have the old nature in our flesh.
- Romans 7 (anything I have dealt with in the past) struggle between flesh and the spirit.
- God leaves it to me to "throw off" the old man, and "put on" the new man.
- Our attitudes and thoughts must be constantly changing for the better. This is the key to changing the old man to the new man.
- **Ephesians 4:23 (NIV)** to be made new in the attitude of your minds;
- Your attitudes and thoughts must be constantly changing for the better.
- Attitude: preset mind set, pre-determined mindset. Our overall mindset. Our subconscious philosophies!
- Ask yourself, "Why am I prone to this way of thinking?"
- Our attitude is like a computer ('dos' software). We try to change something, but we enter the wrong command. ("Error in command.") We come to church and hear the word of God that He loves us no matter what . . . like typing that command. . . but later we feel worthless and insecure. . . the software we are programmed with through abuse/misuse. . . we won't accept that command. . . we feel we must perform to be loved.
- A message I preached in the past, "God is the Perfect Father," deals with this.
- Can't pour the word over a soul that is wired opposite.
- God wants to change us, not just a thought. Renewing, renovation of our mind! We are never too old and it's never too late to change.
- Take and use the word of God to 'rip-out' things that are in your mind that need to be 'renewed'!
- If you 'get' the following two verses, they can literally give you the power to change anything in your life. This is a "classic renewing your mind scripture." These two verses are so full of power that they can expand even more as you study them.
- **Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)** I **beseech** you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. 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.
- Beseech: beg, plead, implore, entreat, make passionate appeal.
- Therefore: This word is 'there for' a reason . . . to refer back to what was previously discussed.
- This word "therefore" is referring to what Paul had discussed in Romans, chapters 9-11.
- In these chapters, Paul discussed the pattern, the big picture, of God's plan for Israel, to bring the Messiah. God says they being raised up was His doing, and they rejecting Him was His doing; they rejecting His son to open

the door for the Gentiles. . . in order to bring the Gentiles into His family. In the end, He will bring them both together.

- This is so much bigger than the span of one man's life, but spans generations, and thousands of years!
- **Romans 9:11 (NKJV)** Esau and Jacob: God decided to have the older one serve the younger one. . . bigger plan than either one of them.
- God raised up Pharaoh, and then hardened his heart to show His power in Israel.
- **Romans 9:20-21 (NKJV)** But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?
- He is a sovereign God! 1) God works in the person. . . more keen in areas than would be otherwise. 2) Works through us to help others.
- The man born blind . . . Who sinned, him or his parents? Neither! but that the works of God may be manifested/accomplished.
- When something happens we may question: Did the devil do it? Did God do it? Or, did God just allow it? What difference does it make? Our position is to continue to stand in faith, as the Bible tells us to do.
- God designs us the way we are, but the enemy does stuff to destroy us. Not everything negative is of the devil.
- How do you answer when someone is better in serving God than you, but seems to get no breaks? What happens if that lot in life doesn't change?
- Look at Romans 9-11.
- Sometimes adversity comes to work something in the person; or through us to bless someone around us (God to be glorified with our life!); or to work through our life into His larger plan for future generations!
- My human responsibility must be placed in the hands of His sovereignty.
- God doesn't reveal everything to us! He is sovereign! Eternal! He knows the end from the beginning!
- Nothing delays or distracts God's sovereign plan, corporately or personally!
- The first thing we need to renew our mind to thinking is, "God is in charge, not us!"
- God is still working in our life even when it seems He is not!