

Extreme Life Makeover

"Transformed by the Word"

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- This truth transformed Pastor Rick's life more than any other thing. . . the 'nature' of the Word of God, and how it works!
- **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.
- Metamorphous - metamorphosis - something that under goes a complete transformation (caterpillar to butterfly).
- God made all of us to soar like a butterfly. In order to do that I must "weave a cocoon" in the Word of God around myself.
- **Isaiah 55:8-9 (NKJV)** For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.
- Most of the time the way we are raised causes our thinking to be diametrically opposed to God's way of thinking.
- Many Christians struggle with their purpose because they haven't spent time to renew their minds. When you become a Christian, one of the number one jobs you have is to renew your mind with God's thoughts. The 'Word' will 'strip and renew' your way of thinking.
- Renew - renovate - as in furniture, strip it down to bare wood, and then apply a new finish.
- This (renewing your mind) won't happen without respect for God's Word as the final authority in your life.
- Christians are one of two things: 1) Carnal: ruled by flesh, emotions, and though they love God, their lack of being transformed causes bad attitudes, complaining, offended, etc. 2) Spiritual: humble before God, being as pure in our hearts as possible, loving God and people, living for His glory!
- **Mark 4:13 (NKJV)** And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"
- Jesus had just finished with the parable of "the sower sows the Word!" The farmer sowed seeds on several kinds of ground. Some seed produced and some didn't. The disciples didn't get the point! Jesus said if they didn't get this, then they would not be able to get anything else He would say about the kingdom of God, because this parable is the key to understand how to get and hear everything from God, and how the Word works in our lives.
- **Mark 4:15-20 (NKJV)** And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. ¹⁶ These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. ¹⁸ Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹ and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. ²⁰ But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."
- 1) 'Nature' of the Word is seed, sown into the soil of your heart. 2) In all cases, the Word was the same, but the soil it was sown into was different. 3) Those who reach out 'by faith', believing in the Word they are hearing, will be the ones whose lives are transformed. 4) It is all about the condition of your heart. There is a challenge which comes when a person begins to sow the Word into their heart. They can get cynical - "Already heard that, know that!" It blocks the Word from producing what it should. 5) If I don't keep your heart clean and without sin, bitterness, anger, and wrong attitudes can grow.
- When the Word is sown in your heart, it must be protected.

- **Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)** Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life.
- Guard your heart. If the Word doesn't make sense, or is boring, check your heart to see what is blocking it.
- Your heart is the soil! The Word is the seed!
- **Romans 1:16 (NKJV)** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- **John 6:63 (NKJV)** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.
- The Word isn't just facts or historical information for you, but it is 'life' for you! The Word is like seed that produces something.
- Seed: 1) Outer shell - protects what is on inside. 2) Embryo - micro version of whatever the seed is (example: tomato). 3) Food - a storehouse that nourishes the embryo.
- Germination: Seed gets comfy in the soil. There is life in the seed, and life (nutrients) in the soil. When they connect, the life in the seed swells and breaks open at the bottom. Roots come out and grab the soil. Nothing comes out of the top of the seed until it is rooted in the soil. Then, it sends a shoot up to the light of day, and in that light it grows and produces leaves and the fruit it was designed to. Then people eat and get nourishment from what the plant bears.
- Your heart was made for God's Word! God's Word was made for your heart!
- Seed doesn't produce anything until it becomes 'one' with the soil it is planted in.
- Revelation - to see again. When you read the Word of God and 'see' something, you are 'seeing' what the writer 'saw' when he wrote it. There is a 'curtain' over the 'Word', and the Holy Spirit pulls it back to 'reveal' its meaning.
- **Hebrews 4:2 (NKJV)** For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.
- On the Road to Emmaus, the disciples said, "Our hearts burn within us."
- You may not always be learning something new when you hear the Word, but it still makes your heart burn. The Word goes into your mind and then goes to your heart. You must be careful you don't allow the enemy to immediately steal what was just sown in your heart by an offense he may try to bring. You must guard, protect and work the soil and the Word in your heart! Work the Word in your life. The soil (your heart) has everything to do with how the Word germinates.
- **Joshua 1:7-8 (NKJV)** Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
- You must meditate on the 'Word'! If you have a need, pray, search scripture and then take it, read it, and think about it all day, praying over it, and speaking in tongues over it. Ask God to speak to you. You can do this for healing, finances, love, relationships, etc. Let the appropriate Word swell in the good ground of your heart and become firmly rooted there. Then it will grow and eventually produce on the outside of you.
- Meditate: mutter, ponder; chew on as a cow chewing cud (bringing it up again and again).
- God is more interested in His Word changing you than He is in the Word changing your situation.
- Before you get a healing or any promises in your life (on the outside), you must first have the Word firmly rooted and growing on the inside!
- **James 1:21 (NKJV)** . . . receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
- **2 Peter 1:19-20 (NKJV)** And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, (This verse is a picture of the germination process).
- **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
- Till the day dawns (revelation comes).
- Meditate on the Word, speak it, and you will grow in God, and not struggle in life. This is the way your life is changed!
- God doesn't work by miracle pills, but by a process! Work the process and God will cure your problem!