

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING
September 29, 2004
PUT OFF. RENEW THE MIND. PUT ON

The purpose of this week's study was to become more keenly aware of God's provision for change. In examining the Scriptures you have discovered that God speaks directly to the issue or issues that keep us from growing spiritually and the change that God wants to bring about. The more we study God's Word with His purposes in mind the clearer it will become to us what is keeping us from growing and experiencing the transformed life. The three levels of problems presented in the last four lessons were the *feeling*, *doing*, and *heart* levels and God's solution for dealing with these levels.

THE GOAL, **CHANGE**. A TRANSFORMED, CONFORMED LIFE (SANCTIFICATION)

QUESTIONS: INTO WHAT? WHAT SHOULD THIS CHANGE LOOK LIKE?

- A. II Cor. 3:18 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 from the Lord, the Spirit.
- B. Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren:
- C. Gen. 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our Likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image. in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

II. THE PROBLEM, **THE HEART**. THE INNER MAN/WOMAN

QUESTION: WHY IS THE HEART THE FOCUS OF CHANGE?

THE HEART REVEALS THE *THOUGHTS*, *SPEECH*, AND *ACTIONS* OF MAN/WOMAN.

- A. *THOUGHTS*. Matt. 15:19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.
- B. *WORDS*. Matt. 12:34 You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.
- C. *ACTIONS*. Mark 7:21-22 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murder, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander pride and foolishness.

III. THE SOLUTION, **SANCTIFICATION** BY PUTTING OFF. RENEWING THE MIND, PUTTING ON

QUESTION: HOW IS THIS DONE?

- A. SELF-EXAMINATION. II Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
 - 1. TEACHING (DOCTRINE). The Holy Spirit through the Scriptures enlightens us so that we can recognize what is of God and what is not.
 - 2. REPROOF. The Scripture helps us to understand our personal responsibility by exposing wrong thoughts, attitudes and actions.
 - 3. CORRECTION. The Scriptures provide us the appropriate Godly means of bringing about a resolution as we are aligned with Scriptural absolutes and deal with sin.
 - 4. INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. Righteousness will only result as we obediently respond to reproof and correction on the basis of the Holy Spirit's teaching.
- B. FAITH IN ACTION. Heb. 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

James 2:17 Even so faith if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

C. **RESULT OF FAITH.** Walking in the newness of life. Walking in light. Spiritual maturity in Christ.

Eph. 4:17-24 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self which is the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Rom. 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

1. **PUT OFF (CAST AWAY, LAY ASIDE).** Our former manner of living is to be left behind. Repentance is required because in repentance it can be seen that there is a turning away from the world and a turning to God.
2. **RENEWING OF THE MIND.** Only when we see life through the lenses of Scripture under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit can we know truth, which renews our mind.
3. **PUT ON (BE CLOTHED WITH).** We will follow after and pursue those things that reflect the Lord Jesus Christ and the principles of His kingdom.

IV. EXAMPLE: A TRANSFORMED LIFE

Eph. 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

- A. **PUT OFF.** The secession of evil (stealing)
- B. **RENEWING OF THE MIND.** Coming to the realization that stealing is evil and repenting.
- C. **PUT ON.** Replacing evil with good resulting in no longer stealing but giving.