

The Infinite Potential of a Renewed Mind

I. Thinking Like God

Wrong Thinking can get us in trouble. We can prime our thoughts toward power and love or toward fear.

*We are wired to be **Love Activists** with Wisdom to make the world a better place.*

2 Tim 1.7 NLT For God has not given us a spirit of fear and **timidity**, but a spirit of **power** (dynamic ability), **love** (agapé – unconditional, without self-interest) and **self-discipline**. (sound judgment).

*The **Gift of God** makes you **powerful, unselfishly affectionate, and practically wise!***

II. The Potential of a Renewed Mind

Rom 12.2 ESV Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewal**¹ of your mind, that by **testing** you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable (well pleasing) and perfect.

John 13.34 ESV A **new commandment** I give to you...

2 Cor 5.17 ESV ... a **new creation**. ...

Rev 21.5 ESV And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, **I am making all things new.**” .

350 years ago, John Milton wrote, “**The Mind ... can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.**”

¹ anakainosis— return to the new, superior, unheard of

We can be **overwhelmed** by every small setback or **energized** by the possibilities in front of us.

Stressed Thinking : If you work hard, you will become successful, and once you become successful, then you'll be happy. ... We think: If I just get that raise, or hit that next sales target, I'll be happy. If I can just get that next good grade, I'll be happy. If I lose that five pounds, I'll be happy. If I meet the right person... and so on. Success first, happiness second.

This formula is broken.

If success causes happiness, then every employee who gets a promotion, ... everyone who has ever accomplished a goal of any kind should be happy.

Blessed Thinking: 3 John2 You prosper as your soul prospers. Happy people are more successful. Happiness is the precursor to success, not merely the result. Happiness and optimism **actually fuel performance and achievement**—giving us a competitive edge, a true advantage.

Thankfully our brains aren't fixed, but can be rewired and reformed.

Consider this:

In His Presence in Fullness of Joy

The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Kingdom of God is..

Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, ...

YOUR MIND IS THE MOST POWERFUL THING IN THE UNIVERSE
OTHER THAN THE CREATOR!

IV. CHOICE and A RENEWED MIND

Deut 30:19 NLT Today I have **given you the choice** between **life** and death, between **blessings** and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would **choose life**, so that you and your **descendants** might live!

Hebrew – **seed**

We choose LIFE and our SEED lives.

John 10.10 ESV ... I came **that they may have life** and have it **abundantly**.

Good thinking = good choices Healthy thoughts = wisdom

A. In Everyday Living we Choose the Future

We can be **overwhelmed** by every small setback or **energized** by the possibilities in front of us.

Our **thoughts**, our **words**, our **actions** are **seeds of future harvests**.

How we think shapes future:

Gal 6.7 ESV Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one **sows**, that will he also reap. **8** For the one who **sows** to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who **sows** to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Apple seed -- not just an apple, but a tree that gives for years and year!

We can count the seeds in an apple, but not the apples in a seed.

We can't fully know what an act of kindness, courage, generosity, sacrifice will yield in time and eternity.

There are **NO LIMITS** on the effects of even a **SMALL CHANGE** in our thinking and behavior.

What we contribute to life today can fill eternity.

God's Design: The Happy become successful. The Generous become rich.

Everything we contribute multiplies in some way back into blessing.
What we say and do makes us richer not poorer.

B. Our Contributions Plant Seeds for Happiness & Blessing

Here is how Paul said it:

2 Cor 9:6 NIV Remember this: Whoever **sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and whoever **sows** generously will also **reap** generously. 7 Each man should **give** what he has decided in his heart to **give**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful** giver.

The seed we sow connects our lives to the soil of God's love. You can't eat dirt, yet all our food comes from dirt. The life in the seed can grow and capture the power of the Sun, transforming dirt and water into a plant or tree that gives food, clothing, housing, medicine, fuel and more!

Here is how Solomon put it:

Prov 11.24 NLT Give freely and become more wealthy;
be stingy and lose everything.

25 The generous will prosper;
those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

Prov 10.22 NLT The **blessing** of the LORD makes a person rich,
and he **adds no sorrow** with it.

The **Blessing of the Lord** releases enduring wisdom. Not a lottery mentality — one lucky break, but wisdom to make the world a better place.

Our blessing raises the status of an entire community!

Prov 11:11 ESV By the **blessing** of the upright a city is exalted,
but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.

The whole economy and way of life is changed by our blessing

V. Conclusion

Love releases Joy

Eph 3.16 NLT I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him.

Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Simple Daily Habits

Ps 92:1 NKJ *It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;*

2 *To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,
And Your faithfulness every night,*