

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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REMEMBERING
9/11

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PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY "God's Perspective on Reality"

It has been five years since our nation came under attack from the enemy. Each of us was moved with fear and uncertainty while we were pulled toward our Lord. Isn't it amazing how our uncertainties are soothed with a trust in a higher power. I remember distinctly where I was and what I was doing. I rushed home to get the news and seeing those planes crash into those towers touched me in places that I have never been touched. The hours following touched a nation. People began to wonder if this was the end time or the beginning of the end time. Our comfort zone had been violated and for a short time, our nation swayed toward God. According to statistics, church attendance soared to an all time high. Our church saw faces that we had not seen in years but they soon disappeared. I am not saying that critically, but it does reveal the nature of mankind. Our comfort zone has been reestablished and many can criticize the way things were handled while plotting their own demise. What thrills me is to see those who took action and stayed the course. We all learned from that dark day and for many a hope was revealed that carries us forward. I pray that there will never be another 9/11, but if there is, may our trust in God rise to the occasion.

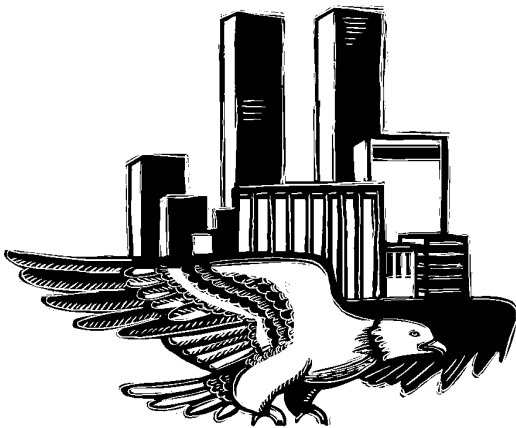
In order for the Church to return to its original mission, we must radically change the way we think. We must renew and transform our minds if we are going to have God's perspective of reality.

We will first look at what the renewing of the mind involves in the life of a believer. First and foremost, the only way to consistently do Kingdom work is to have God's perspective of reality. The renewing of our mind is much more than reading Scriptures and then trying to remember to keep them in our everyday lives. Renewing the mind involves bringing our thinking to the place where we view "reality" from Heaven's perspective. Remember, our battle is in our mind! This makes our mind the essential tool in bringing Kingdom reality to the place where we meet earth reality

TRANSFORMED INTO HEAVEN'S REALITY with Heaven's power.

In order for the believer to be of any use to the Kingdom of God on this earth, their mind not only needs to be renewed, but also transformed. We discover a clue of what it means to be "transformed" by the renewing of our mind in the transfiguration of Jesus. The story goes as related by Matthew in Chapter 17 AMP: **"And six days after this, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. V2, And His appearance underwent a change in their presence; and His face shone clear and bright like the sun, and His clothing became as white as light. V3, And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, who kept talking with Him. V4, Then Peter began to speak and said to Jesus, Lord, it is good and delightful that we are here; If You approve, I will put three booths here—one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah. V5, While he was still speaking, behold a shining cloud (composed of light) overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, This is My Son, My Beloved, with Whom I am [and have always been] delighted. Listen to Him!"** This was a special moment in time when the "reality" of heaven radiated through Jesus as He shone with incredible brilliance into this world (earth's reality). Moses and Elijah represented the law and the prophets respectively, which testify to but must give way to Jesus and the Grace of God. Jesus here was revealing the reality of another world by the fact that He was transfigured in this world into Heaven's reality. The three booths suggest the Feast of the Tabernacles which symbolizes a new situation, a new age. The clouds represent divine presence and approval of Jesus, who was bringing a new reality to this earth called the "Kingdom of Heaven." This new reality would be made possible by Jesus who also was bringing God into believing mankind by creating the "Kingdom of God" inside them.

The word "transformed" or "changed" in the Amplified version is the same word we find in Romans 12:2 AMP: **"Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourself] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable**



WE REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11

DILIGENCE

A house builder one day hired a carpenter to work for him and to help with the construction. He took him to the side of the new house, and ordered him to nail on sheathing to make the wall strong. The builder came back after an hour or so, to see how the new man was

working out. When he rounded the corner, he saw the carpenter throwing new nails out into the bushes. “What are you doing?” shouted the builder. “Why are you throwing those nails away?” The carpenter’s reply was, “They are all pointing in the wrong direction.” “You simpleton,” fumed the builder. “Don’t you know they go on the other side of the house?” Are all of **your** nails pointing in the right direction? If you are not, then you have hidden disdain or even anger against your employer or someone who is in charge. The Word tells us to do our work to the very best of our ability, not to please our boss or to get more money, but to do our work to the glory of God. Your actions will tell everyone that needs to know, just who and what you are.

Jesus, the Son of God, was born a human. It is possible to imagine what His early life might have been like, but we have no word on that until He was age 12. But as the son of the carpenter, it is easy to see him closely watching His father’s actions at work, and His early attempts to master the trade. But be He God in human form, or man of His day, He would have done every chore with meticulous care and craftsmanship, not just to please His earthly father, but to do that work to the Glory of God, His Heavenly Father. This then is what He requires of us. God has ordained man to work to earn his daily bread, and to be as concerned about others, as we are about ourselves. In all of Jesus’s messages and talks in public, He repeatedly stated that He was here on this earth, not to bring praise to Himself, but to bring glory to God, His Father.

It is easy to imagine that, as the infant Jesus grew into boyhood and then to an adult, He became more and more aware of Who He was and what He was ultimately to undergo. At the tender age of 12, He told His parents, “Do you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” He was not talking about His earthly father and his carpenter business. He was more and more conscious of the fact that at the appointed hour, He alone would be placed on a cross to pay for the sins of the world. He did not rebel at the horrid treatment that He would undergo; instead, He asked God, His Father, to forgive them because they did not know what they were doing.

As Jesus matured and began to minister in the towns and villages, He became overwhelmed with compassion for the people. He saw their hardships, and their sufferings, and their abuses at the hands of tyrants. Wherever He went, people gathered around Him, and He healed them all. In the Name of God, the Father. Never to bring admiration to Himself, but to bring glory to God. If Jesus were to appear today in our midst, He would be investigated, mocked and killed again by the same demonic evil that killed Him 2,000 years ago. Books would be printed revealing the most vile things anyone could be accused of, only a few would realize that this is Jesus, the Son of God, and ask for forgiveness. Only a few. Most would writh in merriment at the pain and torture that would be inflicted on Him. Hell then must be a far larger place than Heaven— to accommodate the masses, you know!

Jesus, today, Who sits at the right hand of God, still has that great love and compassion for us all, not willing that any, not one, should perish, but that all who believe on Him should be saved. Do you believe on Jesus? Will you be one of those who will escape hell? Are your nails all pointing in the right direction, or are they for the other side of the house of God? That cloud of evil no longer covers just a small town or village. Satan is over the entire world. Hatred is world wide. Fear is world wide. Murder is world wide. Religions are growing world wide to either accept that corrupt belief or die. It may soon be at your door. Conquer, convert or die. What does freedom really mean to you? Would you die rather than reject your belief in Jesus? This too will one day happen. If our nails are not pointing in the right direction, they will be thrown away. God Bless Us All.

PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY Bro. Vic Clayton

(Continued from page one)

That word is “metamorphoo” (met-am-or-fo’-o)

and means to change into another form, which in Christ’s case, His change was resplendent with the divine brightness of heaven. Should not our renewal and transformation be the same?

As we consider Romans 12:2 in light of our transformation, and compare it with the transfiguration of Jesus, we realize that the “renewed mind” reflects the “reality” of another world in the same way Jesus shone with heaven’s brilliance. So, what is all of this telling us? Is it not the fact that the renewing of our mind is not just that our thoughts are different, but that our way of thinking is transformed? The New Living Translation of Romans 12:2 reveals this very wonderfully— “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.” We must learn to “think” from a different “reality”—from Heaven to Earth! I call it, “transformed perspective,” which simply means that Jesus’ disciples have renewed minds that “prove” the will of God. We can only prove the will of God by putting the “reality” of heaven on display in this world.

Gene R. Brown
Associate Pastor

JEZEBEL IN THE CHURCH—PART 2

In this issue we will explore the motives of the Jezebel spirit. As we stated in the last issue, it's desire is to destroy the church, especially in the area of spiritual awareness. This spirit wants to be the spiritual guide; for the Church and for the individual

leaders of the Church. By being the spiritual guide for the leaders, it gains the position of spiritual guide of the church through default.

Jezebel will present itself as being a super spiritual person, the attitude is "I am so spiritual, how can you not agree with everything I say." As we all know, everything should be weighed by the scales of the Word of God. When the Jezebel first comes on the scene, she (I use the feminine for convenience) will seek out those that are spiritual in the Church; such as Pastors, intercessory prayer leaders, teachers, etc. She has the inapt ability to recognize areas of spiritual weakness and to capitalize on that weakness.

When Jezebel begins her work, she usually seems as innocent as a new born lamb. She will slowly work her way into the confidence of the ones she has chosen to use to accomplish her work. It may take months or even years; but rest assured she will prevail until she is found out or she reaches her goals. She will use her spirituality, her worldly charms and if necessary her sexuality to accomplish her goals.

Keep in mind that most Jezebels are not full manifestations of the Jezebel spirit. The full manifestation is for the destruction of the Church. Most are content to keep the church from accomplishing what God has set in motion for the Church; therefore they are more like tenacles reaching out through different personages to accomplish their goals; to keep the Church in disarray, confusion, and a lack of unity. These personages will be used to destroy prayer meetings, bible studies or anything that relates to the working of the spirituals in the ministry of the church; they may suggest the meeting is not as spiritual as it appears, that the leader is missing the mark, that the meeting is not of God, in an effort to elevate themselves into a position of prominence in the areas of the spirituality of the Church. This spirit works through people to attain prominent positions of spirituality in order to gain a place of leadership in the church.

One of Jezebel's most often used ploys is to convince members that someone is not what they seem. Statements such as "I don't know what has happened to him, but he is not hearing from the Spirit of God like he used to," or "have you noticed his teaching is not as good as it used to be, what happened to his anointing?" The motive is to tear down the leader so she can take his place. She will even go as far as to suggest that a leader's spouse is not "spiritual" enough for him; that she, Jezebel, was really intended to be his soul mate. Only she can give him what he desires, then she begins to create situations and circumstances to prove her point. She will secretly do things to make the spouse look unspiritual, foolish and possibly uncommitted to the marriage. Many a good pastor and leader have been deceived by this very ploy.

This spirit is a controlling spirit; it desires complete submission, even while presenting itself as submissive. The vast majority of spouses that have been betrayed by their marriage partner will manifest the Jezebel spirit; because of the hurt caused by the unfaithful partner he/she tends to "give in" to one that was betrayed. They feel guilty for the hurt caused and the Jezebel spirit takes full advantage of this situation; it reaches the point that the injured party only has to pretend to pout to get their way. This is witchcraft; Jezebel is all about witchcraft, which is defined as making someone do something they normally would not do or to do something against their will.

We must be ever vigilant of Jezebel and her schemes. More in the next issue.

Your servant in Christ, Bro. Ray Jennings

DEAR CHURCH,

At prayer meeting Wednesday night, August 23, 2006, in the prayer room as I began to pray for the church, my Father began to show me a vision. I saw many stalks of wheat that looked to be dead. I asked the Lord "what am I seeing?" At this point, the wheat began to glisten as gold. I then began to see a movie before my eyes. First, I saw the church ground plowed and rowed up as a field ready for planting. Next, I saw seeds being dropped into the ground and water being poured over them. There were many workers in the field keeping it watered and fertilized. The field was so beautiful and green, and looked so full of life. But as I looked on, the field appeared to be dead. I asked the Lord, "why did the wheat die?" He said to me, "look again by child, it is not dead, but is ripe unto harvest," and at this point it began to glisten as it did at the beginning of the vision. The Lord said to me that night, "My church is about to receive a bountiful harvest." This vision excited me because the Lord has told me the Church is about to receive a major outpouring of His Spirit and demonstration of His power. Glory! Remember, there is only one Church, one Bride, and this vision is for every part of that one Body, His Beloved Bride. Get excited Church, the field is ripe unto harvest!

Friday, at work, I was praying and God began to speak to me about the vision again. God said to me, "the ground is My Church, the seed is My Word, the water is My Spirit, the workers are My ministers and disciples, and the fertilizer is the manifestation of My power in miracles, healings, deliverances, and blessings bestowed upon my children through the years." God said, "My Word, My seed has been planted by My chosen ones, watered by My Spirit, fertilized by the manifestation of My power, and grown with My Son as the light source. My Church, My Beloved, is not dead; it is ripe unto harvest, and there is a bountiful harvest. Did I not tell you in My Word in Galatians 6:9, do not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time, you will reap a harvest of blessings if you do not give up." Don't give up Church. The harvest is ready. All we have to do is reap what our Lord has given us. He gave us all in His Son, our Lord, and He wants us to receive it all. He wants us to have the abundant life He died to give us. He wants us, the Church, to reap all that He died to give us.

Remember, there is an enemy out there who came to kill, steal and destroy. He is doing all he can to keep us, the Church, focused on what he is doing. He wants us to reap the harvest he has for us. His harvest is every negative thing you can think of, such as sickness, poverty, death, bitterness, hatred, fear, bondage, to name a few. Satan is a liar and the father of it. He whispers negative thoughts to you. He wants you to embrace the negative, so you can't walk in the victory Jesus died to give you. God said in His Word in Proverbs 23:7, "**For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.**" Think on what the Word of God says, not on what the enemy is doing. Don't be moved by the circumstances, change the circumstances by the Word of God. When we are in a storm, those waves hit hard and cause a lot of pain, but our Lord will put His loving arms around us and block those waves if we keep our eyes on Him. Remember, He never leaves us nor forsakes us. Remember the Word, "**don't get tired of well doing, you will reap a harvest of blessings if you don't give up.**" Another little tidbit to think on, "**Our God is not a God who can lie. He is faithful and just to perform His Word, His Word does not return unto Him void.**" The battlefield is in the mind, so our weapon is what we think on. Philippians 4:8-9, gives us a weapon, "**And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you have learned and received from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.**" Think on "THE WORD" it is living inside of you in the form of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. We are the temple. The more Word you have in your thoughts, the more weapons you have for the battle. Remember the end of the Book. WE WIN! Get excited Church, the VICTORY is ours!



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JAMES 1:18, NRSV