



Freedom in Christ

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Schedule

- Sept 10 Lecture 1: What we lost in the fall
- Sept 17 Lecture 2: What we regain in Christ
- Sept 24 Lecture 3: Walking by the Spirit /
Renewing the Mind
- Oct 1 Lecture 4: Renewing the Mind /
Strongholds
- Oct 8 Lecture 5: The vulnerability of the
believer



Freedom in Christ: Renewing the Mind

Renewing the Mind

3. Emotions are one of the easiest pathways for Satan to take control of our lives. We need to keep them in check and centered on truth.

Activating event > Emotional response > Action

Activating event > Mental evaluation > Emotional response > Action

Activating event > Mental evaluation > Emotional response > Mental reevaluation >
New emotional response > Action

Renewing the Mind

a) If what we believe does not reflect truth, then what we feel does not reflect reality. (Lam 3:1-26).

I am the man who has seen affliction
by the rod of the Lord's wrath.

He has driven me away and made me walk
in darkness rather than light;
indeed, he has turned his hand against me
again and again, all day long.

He has made my skin and my flesh grow old
and has broken my bones. (Lam 3:1-4)



Renewing the Mind

a) If what we believe does not reflect truth, then what we feel does not reflect reality. (Lam 3:1-26).

Yet this I call to mind

and therefore I have hope:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness. (Lam 3:21-23)



Renewing the Mind

b) Out of control emotion is opportunity for out-of-control actions. (Gen 4:6-8)

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. (Gen 4:6-8)



Renewing the Mind

c) Extreme emotion, especially rage, is an opportunity for the demonic. (Eph 4:26-27)

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. (Eph 4:26-27)



Renewing the Mind

4. Let the past go!

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:13-14)



Renewing the Mind

a) See your past in light of who you are in Christ. You are forgiven, a new creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17).

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Cor 5:17)



Renewing the Mind

b) Forgive others like Jesus has forgiven you (Matt 18:21-22).

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matt 18:21-22)



Renewing the Mind

b) Forgive others like Jesus has forgiven you (Matt 18:21-22).

- Ask the Lord to reveal to your mind the people you need to forgive, and write them down.
- Acknowledge the hurt and the hate.
- Embrace the cross.
- Decide to bear the burden of each person's sin.
- Decide to forgive.
- Take your list to God and pray specifically for that person, the offenses they committed and how it made you feel.
- Destroy the list.
- Don't expect that what you've just done will result in major changes in the other person.
- Expect positive results in yourself for giving this to God.
- Confess any wrongdoing on your own part.

Freedom in Christ: Strongholds

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Cor 10:3-5)

Renewing the Mind

I. How strongholds are developed:

- Stimulation
- Temptation (1 Cor 10:13)
- Consideration
- Choice
- Act (Gal 5:19-21)
- Habit (Rom 6:13-14)



Renewing the Mind

2a. We are in a spiritual battle and Satan does not want us to be free. Satan has the ability to put evil thoughts into our minds (1 Chron 21:1; John 13:2; Acts 5:3).

Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. (1 Chron 21:1)

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. (John 13:2)

Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? (Acts 5:3)



Renewing the Mind

2b. God's response to Satan's lie is the truth (John 8:31-32; John 17:15-17; Eph 6:13-14).

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:15-17)

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place... (Eph 6:13-14)

Renewing the Mind

Satan's plan of attack:

- **Outwit you with his schemes (2 Cor 2:11)**

...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Cor 2:11)

- **Blind you to truth (2 Cor 4:4)**

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor 4:4)

- **Lead you astray (2 Cor 11:3)**

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (2 Cor 11:3)

- **Deceive you with his spirits (1 Tim 4:1)**

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (1 Tim 4:1)



Renewing the Mind

3. The first step in destroying strongholds is believing truth and submitting our minds, emotions, and wills to Christ.

- Keep renewing your mind (Rom 12:2)
- Keep your mind alert and sober (1 Pet 1:13)
- Take thoughts captive (2 Cor 10:3-5)
- Immerse your mind in truth (Heb 4:12)
- Focus on truth and goodness (Phil 4:8)

