

March 2018 Preaching Resource Manual

1st Sunday

VICTORIES OF THE TRANSFORMED MIND

Main Texts:

Matthew 7:16-20; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:17-32; Ezekiel 18:31;

Introduction: The mind is the centre of thoughts, imaginations, wills, conscience, emotions, faith and unbelief. The thoughts of the mind can shape one's life positively or negatively. Thoughts are powerful spiritual agents that can turn to realities; thoughts can thus make our lives better and more productive. (Proverbs 4:23, 23:7)

The human mind is never vacant; it is either occupied or controlled by God or the Devil. The mind of the natural man is governed by the Devil. The Bible says "The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; (Gen 6:5-6; Gen 8:21; Jeremiah 17:9) KJV

The evil in the mind of man does not only make him hurt others but also himself as well by engaging in various destructive habits. The human mind needs to be transformed for it to bring beneficial thoughts to himself, others and the society.

Transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit. It occurs when the man repents, turns to God and submits to the lordship of Jesus Christ. "***Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son:***" Colossians 1:13

The Victories of the Transformed Mind

Victory is living above life challenges and overcoming obstacles and problems that confront individuals. It is winning in the battles of life and being on top of situations.

The transformed mind is better prepared for victory in the spiritual and physical battles of life, and all endeavours of business, family and other relationships.

When you allow God to transform you into a new person by changing the way you think, then

1. You will have peace with God Romans 5:1
2. You have all your sins forgiven and there will no longer be any condemnation for you before God and man. Romans 8:1
3. The gift of the Holy Spirit will become easy to access.
4. Constant flow of spiritual strength from the Lord will be your portion. Acts 3:19-20
5. You will be given spiritual illumination in your mind and thence delivered from spiritual blindness and darkness.
6. You will learn to know God's will for you, which is good, pleasing and perfect. Rom 12:2
7. You will have better understanding of spiritual things Luke 24:45
8. You have the empowerment to pursue righteousness and holiness: Eph. 4:22-24; Matt. 7:17.
9. Better value systems you will embrace.

All of these in your life will bring glory to God and peace to you.

Steps to Transforming the Mind

The process of mind transformation of the mind involves both man and God. God works through the Holy Spirit to effect glorious changes in our minds and lives but he can do nothing without our willingness and cooperation.

1. Give your heart and life to Christ. Ephesians 4:24
2. Submit to the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit in us is the power that brings forth good fruit in us. 1John 3:7-9.
3. Study and memorise the Word of God. Matthew 12:35, Romans 12:2.
4. Associate with people with the transformed mind. Philippians 2:5
5. Dissociate from people and things that corrupts the mind. E.g. friends who make you to sin, worldly books and videos. 1Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 4:23.
6. Claim promises of God for a transformed mind. 2Timothy 1:7.

Conclusion:

The Holy Spirit is able to work with the transformed life; the word of God finds a fertile ground in the transformed mind .Wise counsel makes sense to the transformed mind. The transformed mind as such is able to bring forth great fruits to the glory of God and the blessing of humanity. The transformed mind enjoys a lot of possibilities because it is in tune with God Luke 1:37; Philippians 4:13 . He also lives a life of abundant life.

Everyone should see to it that his or her mind is regenerated or transformed. There is a continuous transformation that we must embrace so that we may be become more and more like Jesus Christ.

2nd Sunday March

THE POWER OF THINKING BIG FOR ALL BELIEVERS

Lead Bible References:

2 Timothy 1:7; Jeremiah 1:4-9; Prov. 23:7.

Introduction

"THINKING BIG" has tremendous power in it to bring big success in every area it is applied to. It is one of the pillars of good success.

What is thinking big?

Thinking big means having:

1. Positive thinking without bounds.
 1. Imagination without limitations
3. Approaching issues with the mind of " I can do all things "
4. Setting unbelievable goals with the mind of "with God all things are possible".

Your thoughts reveal -

1. The type of person you are: purposeful or purposeless
2. The level of your faith.
3. How much you know God
4. The level of success you would ever enjoy.
5. How strong you are in your mind. Note that weak and small minds think small while strong and big minds think big.

Your thoughts affects-

1. Your destiny
2. The level of energy you will enjoy
3. The success you can enjoy. The bigger your thinking, the bigger your goals and the bigger your success would be.

Why you must think big as a child of God

1. Your God is big.
2. You have great promises
3. You have a regenerated mind.
4. Thinking big is inspiring.
5. Thinking big is challenging.

How to start and continue to think big in life and work

1. Get rid of mind of laziness in thinking
2. Deal with your fears. Fears limit thinking. Be fearless when you think.
3. Deal with feelings of insufficiency. Have confidence in the grace of God in your life.
4. Ask big questions in the process of your thinking.
5. Set the following limiting factors and forces aside and tear them down-
 - a. Age factor
 - b. Gender factor
 - c. Socio-cultural factor
 - d. Poverty factors
6. Your pattern of thinking is affected by what you feed your mind with. Feed your mind with great ideas through scripture reading, good book sand Godly counselling.

Challenges

You will start to see your big God in action in big ways when you start to think big.

Be bold to think big.

1. Be bold to think very big- bigger than you.
2. Believe big.
3. Set big goals.
4. Pray big.
5. Pursue a big chase.

Thinking big is one the secrets of seeing signs and wonders in your life, situations and work.

Start to think big from today. Think big always, all your life.

Never allow your thoughts to limit you and your God.

3rd Sunday March 2018

THE MIND OF CHRIST FOR ALL COUPLES, PARENTS AND CHILDREN

TEXTS: 1 Cor 2:16, Phil 2:5-8

UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE MIND OF CHRIST IS.

Christ is our perfect example as believers. Every serious Christian is supposed to pursue Christ likeness. Believers are commanded to let the mind of Christ be in them. The mind of Christ is the mind God. To have the mind of Christ is to think like Christ. It also means to view the world through Christ's eye. It is the will, the plan, the counsel and the purpose of Christ for family.

Couples, parents and all children knowing and operating with the mind of Christ are very important to a happy family life.

ATTRIBUTES OF THE MIND OF CHRIST AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN FAMILY SETTING

1. Humility Phil 2:5-8
2. United with the father.
3. Love Eph 5:25, 1 Cor 13:4-8a AMP
4. Sacrificial attributes Mark 10:45
5. Forgiving spirit Col 3:12-13,
6. Compassionate heart Matt20:34, 1 Pet 3:8-9
7. Not self-centred.(Mention others.)

DEVELOPING THE MIND OF CHRIST

1. Genuine conversion. Ezekiel 36:26-27
2. Feed your mind with the word of God. Heb 4:12
3. Spend quality time with Christ in meditation and fellowship. John 15:5, Heb 12:2

4. Deal with evil thought of bitterness and un-forgiveness and all contrary thoughts as soon as

they appear in your heart. 2 Cor 10:4-5.

5. Constantly renew your mind with the word of God. Rom 12:2

6. Let the Holy Spirit influence your mind. Rom 8:5-6

CONCLUSION

The mind of Christ is that your family be perfectly united, where love, joy and forgiveness flow freely from the heart of one person to another. Fill your mind with the word of Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to dominate your thought from today and your home shall be heaven on earth in Jesus name to the glory of God.

4th Sunday in March

BEING A SWEET PERSON

Bible References:

Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 2:15-16

Introduction:

Salt is SWEET. Jesus, our Master and Saviour in Matthew 5:13 tells us that we are the salt of the earth. We must therefore be sweet, amiable and attractive. You must be a person that is very lovable, pleasing and delightful to relate with and deal with.

As a wife or husband you must be a sweet person- an agreeable and attractive person that people feel very safe and happy to follow and associate with.

The Joy of Being a Sweet Person

Being a sweet person will-

1. Attract people to you and your God
2. Make you a strong witness and soul-winner.
3. Make your Christian Faith authentic.
4. Will make providence, (the hand of God working in the secret) to be in your favour.
5. Somehow enhance your health.
6. Somehow enhance your chances of attracting wealth through divine connections.
7. Make you a wonderful spouse in marriage
8. Contribute a lot to your being an effective parent.
9. It is mandatory to being an effective leader.

Being hot, difficult or bitter makes you become repulsive to people.

HELPS FOR BECOMING A SWEET PERSON

1. Live right
2. Be respectful and courteous
 - a. Respect the person of others
 - b. Respect the feelings of others
 - c. Respect the talent of others
 - d. Respect the views of others
 - e. Respect the time of others
 - f. Respect yourself.
3. Show concern FOR PEOPLE

4. Express gratitude at all times.
6. Develop listening ears and not talking too much.
7. Be friendly .
8. Pay attention to your health .
9. Be positive and develop the "I can do all things" mentality.
10. Be encouraged and encourage others too.
11. Be very kind to others.
12. Be gracious and merciful.
13. Smile a lot.
14. Be gentle.
15. Be neat.
16. Let your appearance be SMART.
 - a. Simple
 - b. Moderate/Modest
 - c. Attractive/Adorned
 - d. Relevant
 - e. Tidy.

What becoming SWEET is NOT

A "Yes" person

Men pleasers Ephesians 6:6

Vain glory seeker.

How to be a sweet person

1. Accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord. Make Him your role model. Follow in

His steps. Aspire to be like him in thoughts and in deeds.

2. Holy Spirit as your guide and companion. Fellowship with the Holy Spirit moment by

moment. Be yielded to Him and allow Him to produce His sweet fruits in you.

3. The word of God as the blue print for been SWEET. The word is sweet. Read it with the

purpose of getting the best out of it. Allow the word to influence your life.

Conclusion

Aspire to be a sweet person everywhere, it contributes in no small more to your doing valiantly.

Love God and man with all your heart.