Ministry of Reconciliation (MOR) Bible Teachings



November 2016

The <u>October article</u> presented the Renewed Mind as the key to the unlimited power that we have in Christ. We discussed the difference between spiritual knowledge and natural knowledge. We learned that without the knowledge of God's Word in our minds, there is nothing to renew. The key is to study God's Word daily, so we have a knowledge of His Word in our minds. And we can then renew our minds to say what God's Word declares.

This month's teaching will continue the discussion of the Renewed Mind. Having a Renewed Mind seems simple, but it is a day-by-day, moment-by-moment walk that comes through dedication and continual practice, so that the Renewed Mind becomes a way of life. The Renewed Mind walk is to believe in your mind what God's Word says, practice God's Word, walk God's Word, do God's Word, say God's Word, live God's Word, and manifest God's Word in our day-by-day life.

Now we make up our minds day-by-day, moment-by-moment to do God, our Father's Will, do those things that please Him, have the same purpose as our Father God, say what His Word says, know that His Word is everlasting, and speak as our Father said in His Word. Then we have "*Let this mind be in us, which was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). The Renewed Mind means we are walking in alignment and harmony with God our Father so that when we pray to our Father we have our prayers answered. The Word of God in Philippians 4:13 says:

I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.

God's Word tells us it is up to us to renew our minds and do it! Not tomorrow, not next week or next month, but NOW! Romans 12:2 gives us God's Word on the renewing of our mind.

And be not conformed [by the five senses information] to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind [to God's reveal Word], that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

God's Word is God's Will. God's good, and acceptable, and perfect, Will for salvation is documented in Romans 10:9:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

By following what is written in Romans 10:9, we are saved or born-again of God's spirit! I know some ministers teach that you should confess your sins. But that's not what God's Word says. Who can possibly remember all his or her sins? Per this logic, if you missed confessing one sin, you couldn't be born-again. By understanding Romans 10: 9, we see that salvation is based on confessing the Lord Jesus, and not our sins. Jesus Christ took the place of our sins. We are to do what Romans 10:9 says:

Confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in the innermost part of your heart that God raised him from the dead.

This what God's Word says, and that's what it means. Once we renew our minds and do what Romans 10:9 tells us, we receive salvation. But we also receive more than that. Look at Acts 1:8:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Currently, I am born-again of God's Spirit; I have received power. We renew our minds to say "I have received the gift of the holy spirit; I am a witness unto Jesus Christ!" The last part of Acts 1:8, "*the uttermost part of the earth,*" includes you and me as witnesses to Christ!

Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 12:7-11:

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the Word of wisdom; to another the Word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Present day, we can say "I am filled with the gift of holy spirit believing to operate all nine manifestations of the spirit and producing nine fruit of the spirit." Galatians 5:22-23 tells us what the fruit of the Spirit is:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

People - we have got to renew our minds to say what God's Word says if we want to walk with power! You will never have any fruit of the spirit until you manifest the spirit which begins with speaking in tongues much.

Let's continue to look at 1 John 3:2:

Beloved, **now** are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. [Bold added for emphasis]

Isn't this tremendous? Now "*are we the sons of God*!" I am a son of God through Jesus Christ! When he appears, I shall be like him! We are sons and daughters of God, people! Now He has given us the Ministry of Reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5:18:

And all things are of God, who hath [past tense] reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

When we were born-again we were given the Ministry of Reconciliation (see <u>January 2016</u> for more specifics on the Ministry of Reconciliation). I learned long ago when you base your actions on the Word of God you are guaranteed success. The moment we are born-again we are given the Ministry of Reconciliation. Think about this for a second - every born-again Christian has the Ministry of Reconciliation. We have what God has given us, and the Word of God says He has given us the Ministry of Reconciliation. If God has given it to us, then we have it!

Here and now we must renew our minds to say "God has given me the Ministry of Reconciliation." Then, we move out and reconcile men and women back to God by using the Word of Reconciliation. It's the Word of God and Jesus Christ that reconciled you and me back to God. The Word of God and Jesus Christ is the only thing that can reconcile us back to God. We are given more information about our Ministry of Reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5:19:

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses [sins] unto them; and hath committed unto us the Word of reconciliation.

Now we must renew our minds to say "God has committed (past tense) unto us the Word of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:19 is very clear - We have the Word of Reconciliation even if we never say a Word!

In Colossians 1:27, the Word of God tells us when we are born-again of God's Spirit, we have "Christ in you the hope of glory!" Now I renew my mind and say "It is God in Christ in me the hope of glory!" In John 14:12, Jesus tells us what we can accomplish:

Verily [amen], verily [amen], I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Now you must renew your mind to say "I believe in Jesus and the works that he did I have done also and greater works than these have I done!"

I know, I know. You are shaking your head and saying "I can't do the things Jesus Christ did." Wait a minute here - just because we have not done the works of Jesus Christ, doesn't mean we don't have the ability! The Word of God in John 14:12 says "*he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also.*" The Word "shall" means absolutely. If you believe on Jesus Christ, the works he did you shall absolutely do! Jesus either lied or he spoke the truth. He said you can absolutely do the works he did.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you cannot in your mind see yourself doing the works of Jesus, you will never do them. This is the power of the Renewed Mind. At the beginning of this article, I said it sounds simple but it is a moment-by-moment, day-to-day commitment.

So hang on. We are not finished with John 14:12 just yet. This verse also tells us "*greater* works than these shall he do: because I go unto my Father." Based on this verse, it says we are going to do greater works than Jesus did. Now we see another reason why Jesus Christ could not be God. Based on this verse it says we are going to do greater works than he did.

If Jesus Christ is God, we are going to do greater works than God! This is NOT going to happen, people. Jesus Christ is the son of God. God Himself said who he is - look at John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* God's Word said God gave His only begotten Son. God should know who He gave, people.

You know what the "greater works" are? It's the new birth. When Jesus was on this earth, no one could be born-again of God's spirit! Why? Because it was not available until after his death, resurrection <u>AND</u> ascension. Looking back, we know it was ten days after his ascension the holy spirit was poured out upon the twelve Apostles (see Acts 2:4).

There are examples throughout the Bible of the men who did the works of Jesus Christ. Take a look at Philip (Acts 8:5-6), Ananias (Acts 9:17-18), Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:12) and Peter and John (Acts 3:6). These men renewed their minds and believed on the Lord Jesus and did the works of Jesus Christ.

With a Renewed Mind, we believe God's Word that all things per His Word are possible. Look at 1 Thessalonians 2:13:

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the Word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

You know what 1 Thessalonians 2:13 means? It means that whatever the Word of God says, we are to believe it and do it. And the best part – when we truly believe, it will come to pass! This is powerful. This is the power of the Renewed Mind. We learn more about this power from God our Father and His son in the name of the Lord Jesus in Colossians 3:17:

And whatsoever ye do in Word or deed [works], do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

People, the power is in believing in God and His son. With a Renewed Mind, God lives with you and you live for God. We are what God's Word says we are! And some day, some of us are going to believe that, ladies and gentlemen. For now, I'd rather believe God than men. Why? God's Word says that He (God) was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. This is confirmed in II Corinthians 5:19 were it is written "*To wit, that God was in Christ.*"

The Renewed Mind is a continual, daily, minute-by-minute belief that we have the Ministry of Reconciliation, the Word of Reconciliation, and the power of God in Christ in us, the hope of glory, to reconcile people back to God. Let's continue with 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 to learn more.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

For he hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. [Bold added for emphasis]

When are we ambassadors for Christ? Now! We are ambassadors for Christ the minute we are born-again - as soon as we follow the instructions in Romans 10:9. We don't get our Ministry of Reconciliation when we pass away. We get it right then and there! Every born-again believer is an ambassador for Christ.

Ask yourself what do people see when they see you? Do they see an ambassador for Christ? Do they see Christ in you? What are you illuminating? You have the Ministry of Reconciliation and this makes YOU an Ambassador for Christ! And as Ambassadors for Christ we are made with "*the righteousness of God in him*." God made us righteousness in Christ. It has nothing to do with our feelings or works or who we know or what we said. We are righteousness when we are born-again. Look at Colossians 1:27:

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory

Remember, a Renewed Mind means you have God in Christ in you the hope of glory. For everything that God is in Christ, you get when you are born-again. Christ in you is your sonship. You, in Christ, are fellowship. Everywhere we go, God in Christ goes with us because it is God in Christ in you the hope of glory! It's the Word of God that we must put on in our minds day-by-day to walk in fellowship with God. It is the Renewed Mind.

In summary, we discussed the Renewed Mind as the key to walk with power in this day and time. The Renewed Mind walk is to believe in your mind what God's Word says, practice God's Word, walk God's Word, do God's Word, say God's Word, live God's Word, and manifest God's Word in our day-by-day life. What God's Word declares, we do it!

Based on Romans 10:9, my one-time confession is:

I confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus, and I believe in my heart that God hath raised him from the dead and I am saved!

Here is an example of a daily Renewed Mind confession:

I am born-again of God's Spirit. I am a son and daughter of God through Jesus Christ. I am an Ambassador for Christ. I am filled with the gift of holy spirit. I speak in tongues much throughout the day. I believe to operate all nine manifestations of the spirit and produce nine fruits of the spirit. I have the Ministry of Reconciliation. God has committed to me the Word of Reconciliation. I believe in Jesus and the works that he did. I believe I have done the works of Jesus and greater works than these have I done! I believe it is God in Christ in me the, hope of glory! I believe everything that God is in Christ, is in me when I was born-again. I can do whatever the Word of God says I can do. I have what the Word of God says I have. I absolutely am what the Word of God says I am. I will be what the Word of God says I will be, because of God our Father and what He brought to past by His only begotten son Jesus Christ and what he, Jesus Christ, accomplished for me.

Read Romans 12 2 each day to remind yourself what a Renewed Mind is:

And be not conformed [by the five senses information] to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind [to God's revealed Word], that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Keep in your heart 1 Thessalonians 2:13:

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the Word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Next month's teaching, will be on the birth of Christ to coincide with the Christmas celebration.

In the Lord,

Ministry of Reconciliation Son of God through Jesus Christ Ambassador for Christ