

How to Change Wrong Perception

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Scripture References

Psalm 112:1-10

Mark 9:23

Proverbs 23:7

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 Peter 2:24

Romans 8:37

2 Timothy 1:7

Romans 12:1-3

Romans 12:2-4, *AMPC*

Philippians 4:8

Summary

*The Holy Spirit can transform us and do amazing things in our lives. However, for this to happen, we must be **willing** to change; some people simply want to stay the same. Another barrier to our transformation is when we perceive ourselves the wrong way. To truly be transformed, we must know who we are. Our identity is not determined by the external world, but by Jesus, who lives in us. Everything flows from the knowledge that we are the righteousness of God, by faith in Jesus Christ. Change for the better only comes when we begin seeing ourselves as God sees us.*

A. The only way to experience real change is to see ourselves according to God's Word.

1. To experience true change, we must see ourselves correctly.
 - a. When we realize that we are the righteousness of God through Jesus, we also realize that we have a right to receive everything God promised us.
 - b. Our faith in Christ causes the profile of a righteous man (Psalm 112:1-10) to become evident in our lives.
 - c. Our perception of ourselves is determined by the way we think and how we view situations around us. We must not assume that things will always remain the same.
 - d. We must raise our expectations. Jesus declared that faith makes the impossible possible.
 - e. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth (Mark 9:23).
2. For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee (Proverbs 23:7).
 - a. The way we think determines what we believe about ourselves.
 - b. We must not dwell on past mistakes; this is precisely what the enemy wants us to do. What happened in the past stays in the past, unless we continue to focus on it. Grace empowers us to change and move forward.
 - c. We must paint a new picture of ourselves using the Word of God, and refuse to let our past mistakes define us.
 - d. We should see ourselves as new creatures who have been healed. We are victorious and fearless.
 - e. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- f. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed (1 Peter 2:24).
- g. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us (Romans 8:37).
- h. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

B. Renewing our minds allows us to view ourselves as God views us, and think like Him.

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith (Romans 12:1-3).
 - a. On a physical level, we must view ourselves the way God views us: holy and acceptable to Him.
2. 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 yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, *even* the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate *and* think of himself more highly than he ought [not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance], but to rate his ability with sober judgment, each according to the degree of faith apportioned by God to him. For as in one physical body we have many parts (organs, members) and all of these parts do not have the same function *or* use (Romans 12:2-4, *AMPC*).
 - a. Renewing the mind leads to change.
 - b. To renew our minds is to exchange our thoughts, ideas, and ways of thinking for *God's* thoughts, ideas, and way of thinking.
 - c. Renewing the mind is not a one-time event, but a lifetime process.
 - d. As humans, the most important thing we could ever do is to get born again; as born-again Christians, the most important thing we could ever do is to renew our minds.
 - e. We need to stop seeing ourselves as fat, dumb, and poor, and escape the trap of guilt and shame.
3. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things (Philippians 4:8).
 - a. Perception has everything to do with our minds and our way of thinking. Dealing with wrong-thinking means dealing with feelings of inferiority.
 - b. We must examine what we spend time thinking about.
 - c. Inferiority is defined as a persistent sense of inadequacy and powerlessness. It is a feeling of being insignificant and unimportant. We must deal with these feelings.

For more on how having the wrong perception of who we are blocks positive change in us, click on the link below for the DVD, *How to Change Wrong Perception*.

<http://bit.ly/HowtoChangeWrongPerceptionDVD>

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