TRANSFORM YOUR THINKING, TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

Radically Change Your Thoughts, Your World, and Your Destiny

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INTRODUCTION

The world is always telling us that we should be living the high life. Their idea of the high life is having a beer in our hand, sitting in a tropical paradise, and being surrounded by beautiful, wealthy people. Commercials and billboards picture “the high life” as idyllic landscapes and luxurious lifestyles. But what really is the high life?

Deep down inside, every human being knows what the high life is. The high life is being both happy and successful inside and out. It is something we all long for, but most of us believe it is impossible to achieve. The question is, why would God put that desire in us and then give us no way to realize it? He wouldn’t! The Bible tells us that we can live the high life through Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the way to the high life, so why isn’t every Christian living it? The Bible tells us why. It says that we must first change the way we think. Proverbs 23:7 says that we are what we think. That would mean that if we are poor, miserable, lonely, scared, sick, or frustrated and in a rage all the time—it is because of what we are thinking.

I heard it said once that we will always move in the direction of our most dominant thoughts. That is a profound truth! If we see ourselves working hard but never getting ahead, then we will probably continue to work hard and
never get anywhere. We can be born again and filled with God’s Spirit, but if we are constantly thinking of ourselves in terms of poverty and unhappiness, that is what we are going to experience in life.

There is good reason the Holy Spirit used the apostle Paul to literally beg Christians to attend to their minds.

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.

Romans 12:1-2

This says that when our minds are consumed with the Word of God, we will be transformed and move in the right direction. We will “prove” to the world around us what is the will of God, and His will is always truly good, fully acceptable, and perfect. The Bible makes it clear that God’s will is for us to succeed and live in joy unspeakable and full of glory!

All this sounds simple enough. Just renew our minds or change the way we think by reading and studying the Word of God. Then all of us blood-bought, Spirit-filled believers should do just fine. However, I have noticed that many of us are not doing just fine. An example was during the last presidential election. I was amazed at the strife and contention among the saints.

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was a foul mess for the world to see. We certainly weren’t proving the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God!

When the issues of politics or race or doctrine come up in your local church, when there is a family dispute over whose responsibility it is to feed the dog and take out the trash, when your boss calls you in to tell you that you are being laid off, or when your doctor tells you that you have a terrible disease, that is when you discover just how renewed your mind is! Do you act like the world or do you act like Jesus?

Personally, I have never been more built up and charged up since I began this study of how to renew my mind. I have discovered the vital importance of keeping it renewed. Understanding and going through this process has removed so many barriers and limitations I had placed on God’s ability to move in my life—ways of seeing myself, my family, my church, and my God that had kept me from receiving everything Jesus died to give me. When I got serious about renewing my mind, I discovered the key to living the high life! For that reason alone I believe this is one of the most important books I have written.

As you read and meditate the Word of God presented here, as you take His Word to heart and allow it to change your perception of God, yourself, your life, and the world around you, you will be miraculously transformed. I can say this with full confidence not only because it is happening to me, but more important, because it is what God promised.
Jesus died to give you abundant life, the high life. The only thing that stands between you and living the high life is what is going on between your ears! Make the commitment to renew your mind, and let the revolutionary transformation of your life begin right now.
CHAPTER 1

WHO’S GOT YOUR SOUL?

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.

Romans 12:1-2

Christians are not to be conformed to this world. My paraphrased definition of the word *conformed* is to fashion and configure ourselves like this world, to adopt the customs of this world, and to be squeezed into the world’s mold. From the moment we are conceived, the world and the spiritual enemies of God are bombarding us with thoughts that run contrary to the Word of God. They are in the business of keeping us from Jesus Christ so that they can control us.
If the world and the devil do not succeed in keeping us from Jesus Christ and we get saved, the real battle begins! We are not to continue to be conformed to this world; we are to be conformed to the image of Jesus. How does that happen? We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds with God’s Word. We have to change the way we think about everything.

The word transformed is translated from the Greek word metamorphoo {met-am-or-fo’-o}, which is where we get the English word metamorphosis. In elementary school we learned about metamorphosis by watching how a caterpillar spins its cocoon and later breaks out of the cocoon as a butterfly. The caterpillar completely changes its shape, coloring, and function. It goes from a worm-like creature that crawls on the ground to a bright-colored creature that flies gracefully through the air.

How are we to be transformed? What is our process of metamorphoo? Romans 12:2 says that it is the renewing of our minds. The word renew could also be translated renovate. When we renovate a house, we tear out and throw away all the old, unwanted walls and decorations and replace them with brand-new ones. Sometimes we put in new furniture and appliances we have never used before. That is the picture the Holy Spirit gives us when He tells us that we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. He moves in and begins to renovate our soul with the Word of God. He tears down strongholds of deception and lies and
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replaces them with the truth. And one of the first things He begins to show us is who we are.

**WHO ARE YOU?**

It’s a sad thing when people live their whole lives and never understand what it means to be a human being. They spend all their years trying to find out who they are and why they were created, but they never go to their Creator. If they did a little reading in the Bible, they would see that God created us in three parts: spirit, soul, and body.

The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Our spirit, soul, and body are intimately connected and work together. Our spirit is the part of us that communicates with God. We were created to walk in communion with Him at all times. Under this spiritual headship is our soul, which is our mind, emotions, and will. Then our soul, in agreement with our spirit and God’s Spirit, tells our physical body what to feel, say, and do. Although our physical body is our contact with the natural, physical world, it is not supposed to be in charge. Our spirits are to be in charge.

Our spirit life is superior to the physical, natural, and material life. The spirit is the highest form of living because our spirit man communicates with the Holy Spirit, who
connects us back to God, our Source. The senses constitute a lower level of living so we must not allow our five senses to dominate. Therefore, we must renew our mind to the Word of God or it will be carnal.

We were originally created to live from our spirits in full submission to our Lord. God placed in human beings the desire to love and to be loved by Him. Our souls, which contain our thought, emotion, and will, are supposed to operate according to our communication with God. We were never meant to operate on the basis of our contact with the natural, physical world.

The fall of mankind occurred because Adam and Eve acted upon communication from the outside world, from the serpent, instead of communication with God on the inside, in their spirits. When we act according to our senses and our natural thinking, we can be easily deceived and sin against God. That’s what happened to Adam and Eve.

**What Went Wrong?**

In the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve were living the high life. They had every material thing they needed or wanted. They were healthy and happy. They loved and honored each other and accomplished great things together. Their life was ideal. Their environment was perfect. And it was all based upon their intimate relationship with God.
One day God told Adam, “Don’t eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or you will die” in Genesis 2:17, and disaster ensued. Adam exercised the free will God had given him and ate of that tree. He acted on the counsel of the serpent instead of God’s Word and made the wrong decision. He chose to disobey God, ate of the forbidden tree, and everything God had warned him about the tree came to pass. He immediately died.

Obviously, Adam and Eve didn’t immediately die physically. They died spiritually. Death is permanent separation from a state of being, whether spiritual or natural. Initially, they died spiritually, which meant permanent separation from God. The Spirit of God and the eternal life of God left their human spirits.

Because Adam and Eve no longer lived in the state of eternal life, their souls and bodies began to decay. Without God’s spiritual life in them, eventually they would die physically. Furthermore, they now lived primarily by what their physical senses and their natural minds told them. They had sunk to a very low level of living.

*Human beings lost the high life when they lost their intimate relationship with God.*

The result of Adam’s sin not only affected him but the whole human race. As Adam’s descendants, we were all born spiritually dead to God, cut off from Him for eternity. From the moment we were born we had to fight physical sickness and death. Satan was our spiritual lord and our
minds were caught up in the material world instead of the spiritual Kingdom of God. Thank God, that was not the end of the story!

God sent Jesus to pay the price for Adam’s sin and give us the opportunity to restore our spiritual life connection with Him. When we accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, surrendering our lives to Him, we are born again spiritually. Our dead spirits are made alive by the Holy Spirit, who comes to live in us. We can communicate and fellowship freely with our Heavenly Father again. He returns us to the high life!

**Your Divine Connection**

When you are born again your spirit is brand new, and it comes in line with the supernatural. The Holy Spirit lives in your new spirit. But your soul and body are another matter. Although they will be dramatically affected by the rebirth of your spirit, they are not brand new. They have not been regenerated yet. If you had dentures before you were saved, you probably will have dentures after you are saved unless God does a miracle. If you had a bad temper before you got saved, you will probably have to deal with your temper after you are saved. The difference is that now you are spiritually connected to God and your nature has changed. You are no longer under the influence of the devil. You are a child of God!
Believers are instantly restored to all the blessings of knowing God intimately, but the full manifestation of our new state of being is a process of maturity.

As a believer you still have battles with the devil, the world, and your flesh—only now you have God’s ability to overcome and win the victory! Your divine connection is the difference between living the low life and living the high life.

Take wisdom and knowledge, for example. In the Garden of Eden before the Fall, there was no Northwestern, Harvard, or University of Southern California. There was no Museum of Natural History or Museum of Science and Industry. Adam and Eve received knowledge directly from the Source of all knowledge. The Holy Spirit lived inside them. They walked and talked with Jesus. And they communed with their Heavenly Father.

Educational institutions came after Adam sinned. Fallen human beings, separated from God, then received information from sources outside them instead of the Spirit and Word of God inside them. They went from the high life (living and learning from communication with God in their spirits) to the low life (living from their physical senses and natural thinking). The Word of God became a mystery to them, a dead letter to their souls, shrouded with mystery.

After our spirits are made alive and reconnected to our Heavenly Father at the new birth, God becomes our Instructor again. The Word of God becomes living and
active in our lives. The Holy Ghost talks directly to our spirit, and we can get information and wisdom from Him by our spirit. We can still go to school and gain information, but we now understand that we process all that we learn by the Word and the Spirit of God.

The spirit of a man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

Proverbs 20:27

What is the purpose of a candle? It gives light, of course. Your spirit is the lighthouse of the Lord, where you receive revelation knowledge and understanding. His light shines in your spirit and gives purpose, meaning, and direction to your soul. His light brings health and well-being to your body. The Bible also says in Psalm 119:130,

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Light is defined in this verse as understanding, and what brings understanding is the Word of God. It comes in and lights the candle, your spirit. The Word illuminates your spirit and brings revelation to your mind. The Holy Spirit, your Teacher, gives you understanding about who you are, what you were created to do in life, and divine guidance concerning every choice you make.
When God called me into the ministry, He gave me understanding by lighting my spirit with an illustration. I saw a doctor’s office with a lot of people walking by outside. The doctor was inside doing busy work, and he didn’t put out his sign that said, “Open for Business.” Then I saw all these people lined up outside his office just waiting for him to open up and treat them. The Holy Spirit spoke to my spirit, “Son, you’ve got to go into the ministry because a lot of people are waiting on what I have put in you.”

God wants you to make the right decisions so that you can fulfill the destiny He has for you, and in the process a whole lot of other people will get touched and blessed by Him. But to make the right decisions you have to have revelation and understanding, which you will not get unless you renew your mind with God’s Word.

Your soul is your mind, your emotions, and your will. It is where you make decisions. Therefore, your destiny and the quality of your life are determined by your soul. That is why the Bible stresses that you must be transformed by the renewing of your mind. You have to get your mind transformed by the Word of God, which means it comes under complete submission to the Holy Spirit in your spirit. Then you will begin to think, speak, and act like Jesus instead of that old selfish, sinful person you were before you got saved. You will act from your communication with God.
instead of your physical senses and carnal thinking. You will cease living the low life and live the high life!

Your soul is where the battle lies. Whoever and whatever controls your soul—whoever and whatever possesses your thinking, your emotions, and your will—determines the course of your life. This is something the enemy knows, and the devil and his demons will do everything they can to get your mind on anything but the Word of God.

Your life today is a result of the decisions you have made in the past. God gave you a free will and He will guard and protect it. He has such respect and regard for your free will that He will let you choose hell over Him in your lifetime. The enemy also knows this, and he will try to influence your decisions by capturing your soul.

The devil and his demons influence your decisions through circumstances and your physical environment. They introduce thoughts to your mind and get you focused on what your five physical senses perceive. They will use people they can influence to harm you or offend you. Some people have no idea they are being used by the enemy. They are either unbelievers or believers with unrenewed minds. They can think they are doing the right thing, but they are deceived.

A great example of someone who thought he was doing good was Saul of Tarsus, who later became the apostle Paul. Before he was saved he was responsible for the persecution and execution of Christians, and he believed
he was faithfully serving God in doing this! Paul’s life demonstrated how Satan influenced the decisions he made before he was saved, and Jesus influenced the decisions he made after he was saved. He went from living the low life to living the high life.

*We live the low life under Satan, but we live the high life in Jesus Christ!*

Unbelievers may not be aware of Satan’s influence or even that they have the power of choice. As believers, however, we know from God’s Word that God will always give us the final decision.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:  
Deuteronomy 30:19

Life is choice-driven, and your soul is where the choice to live or die is made.

Satan knows that whoever controls the soul of a person will control the experience and destiny of that person. He went into the Garden with the express purpose of becoming the influence over mankind. Because God had given Adam and Eve dominion over the Earth, the only way Satan could gain control of the Earth was to gain control of Adam and Eve.

When Adam turned from God’s influence to Satan’s influence, he sinned. And when Adam fell the whole human race fell. It is a lie from the devil that your sin affects only
you! Your sin always affects the lives of everyone around you, just like Adam’s sin affected all of us. If Satan can get just one person to do what he wants them to do, he can cause a whole lot of hurt in this world.

On the other hand, if God has all the influence in your life, He can do a whole lot of good in this world! As believers we need to keep our souls full of God and His Word. Then we will be making the right choices and have a godly impact on the world around us.

Whoever we trust with our lives is the one who will possess our soul, and whoever has our soul is going to influence our decisions and our destiny. We want God to completely possess our soul so that His good, acceptable, and perfect will can be proven in our lives. And when the people around us see all the love, peace, joy, and success we have, they will want to know Jesus and begin living the high life too.

I’m going to challenge you to check yourself throughout your day. From time to time just ask yourself, “Who’s got my soul right now?” This will do two things. It will give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to expose any ungodly influence or thinking, and it will put you in remembrance of God’s Word and will for your life. Just asking yourself that simple question can make the difference between success and failure, misery and happiness, and even life and death.