



"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind"

Romans 12:2

This is not a suggestion. It is a prescription in order to help us on our renewal journey. Since we were born into this world naturally, picking up a few things from the world is understandable. Not everything we have learned is sinful, however, when we come to Christ, there are very specific ungodly and worldly behaviors that we must let go. This is done effectively by, "renewing our minds". For example in Galatians 5:19, wrath, jealousy, hatred, and **envy** (which is our PSA example below), are all patterns of this world and contrary to the peaceful lifestyle we can have in Christ. But these are only a few areas that hinder our transformation and renewing the mind! There are a great deal more.

What does "renew" mean?

The Greek word for "renew" has several related forms, but two prominent ones are "anakainoo (ἀνακαίνω)" and "anakainizo (ἀνακαίνιζω)". Anakainoo generally means "to make new" or "to renew," while anakainizo can also mean "to restore" or "to renew". Another related noun is **anakainosis** (ἀνακαίνωσις), which signifies "renewal" or "renovation". For those who are not fond of Greek definitions, Miriam - Webster's Dictionary offers this for clarity. "to make like new : restore to freshness, vigor, or perfection as we renew our strength in sleep". Do you sometimes feel like your strength is zapped? It is obvious by these definitions that the intention of the Lord is that we be renewed, restored, and returned to freshness, which makes sense, because the world's ways bring decay rather than restoration.

Another important thought to consider is that this process is something that we must take personally. **No one can renew your mind for you!** It is a choice that you must make. The wonderful thing is you are not alone... the Lord is working diligently with each of us. We are transforming together by His grace and mercy, more and more into His image and less and less after the pattern of the world. **Don't be impatient with the process.** Keep your heart open and receptive to gentle proddings. I heard a pastor say one time "it will not happen overnight but it will happen over time".

What areas need to be renewed?

Can you think of one area in your life that is more conformed to this world, than to the will of the Lord? You will easily be able to tell because you keep getting the same results by using the same pattern. So another way to ask the question is, what area in your life are you still getting the same negative results that don't display the "good, acceptable, or perfect will of God"? Do you feel guilty and ashamed or prideful? The first step to transformation and renewal is to face the challenge and present it to the Lord. The PSA worksheet example will get you started!

PSA SAMPLEWORKSHEET

(PRAY, STUDY, APPLY)

Pray

Gracious and merciful God. I pray you give ear to my cry and help me to be transformed and renewed in this area (fill in the blank) that doesn't reflect your good, acceptable, and perfect will. Open my heart and mind to Your good counsel and the wisdom of the spiritually mature leaders you have given me. Thank you, Lord...amen.

Study

Now that you have offered your concern to the Lord in prayer the next step is to study. Define the word using tools such as a dictionary, concordance or online sources such as BlueLetter Bible or BibleHub; and find where the Scriptures speak about this area?

ENVY (define it so you can recognize it better)

Envy - Merriam Webster Dictionary - (n) a feeling of painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another, joined with a desire to possess the same advantage. (v) To feel envy towards someone for something they possess or have achieved. Note: It carries with it the feeling of "discontent" or "resentment" from someone else's possessions, abilities, or status that you want for yourself. OUCH....this should be enough to encourage us to not want to follow the world's way of living.

Envy - Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words - the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others even in spiritual matters! Speaking of Jesus: Matthew 27:18 "For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up". Speaking of ministry: Philippians 1:15 "Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. Speaking of Christians: Titus 3:3 "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Apply

Now that we have defined a sample word, it is time to find out what to replace it with; what to use to "renew our mind". Putting God's wisdom (what to do) into practice will consistently renew your mind and transform your behavior. You will be blessed in your obedience, (James 1:25). You will have a sense of relief, refreshing and renewal because you are free from it.

As we can see the practice of "envy" has nothing good attached to it. It is vile, ugly and does not serve the followers of Christ or His Kingdom. How do we overcome it? The easiest way is to find out the opposite meaning of the word and practice it until it becomes second nature. Envy's opposites (antonym) are generosity, kindness, goodwill, benevolence, and contentedness (to be content) just to name a few. WordHippo.com says there are 177 opposite words for "envy". Out of these we are sure to find passages that support at least one beautiful attribute that will help renew our minds and transform us more into Christ's image.

Content: Philippians 4:11 "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be **content**": adj. satisfied, pleased, gratified, fulfilled, unworried, at ease, comfortable...See how easy that is? When envy rears its ugly head you simply say:

"I will be content in my current situation and not be anxious about anything".

"Lord, please help me to be thankful and content with what You have provided for me".

"I am fulfilled and unworried about my future because God loves me".

You can do this and remember we are "transforming together"!

