

2016 Turn the Page
“Think Better”
Pastor Eddie Turner
Sunday, January 24, 2016

Eph. 4:21-24(NLT)~ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

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Start a new chapter because we have already read chapter 2015 and the chapters which came before that.

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Start writing a new chapter for your life, because you have already been there and done that for days gone by.

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In 2016 what a difference it would make if we lived every day as if the word of God was true:

- Old things have passed away, all things have become new
- Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead

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John 3:1-7(NLT) ~ There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ² After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

³ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

⁴ “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

⁵ Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’”

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The born again experience is a spiritual transformation which takes place in our hearts not to our bodies.

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Ezekiel 36:26-27(NLT) ~ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.
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· When we are born again not only does transformation take place on the inside; on the outside kingdom relocation takes place.  
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Eph. 2:2-3(NLT) ~ You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.
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1 John 3:10(NLT) ~ <sup>so</sup> now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.  
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Col. 1:12-13(NLT) ~ always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,
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When we were born again- we changed kingdoms. We are no longer under the power of darkness-we live in the kingdom of light. Yet so many children of God remain bound by darkness-why?  
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Rom. 12:1-2(NIV)~ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not  
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conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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· It is vitally important that we understand the power of our thought life and guard what goes into our minds.

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· Our pattern of thinking determines our destiny in life.
Prov. 23:7(NKJV) ~ For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

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· Satan operates in the arena of thought:  
Matt. 15:17-20(NKJV) ~ Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? <sup>18</sup> But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart and they defile a man. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. <sup>20</sup> These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

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The precursor of evil actions is evil thoughts. If Satan cannot plant an evil thought in our mind-then he will be unable to motivate us to an evil action!

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Philippians 4:8(NIV) ~ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

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· Renewing our Minds:
To renew means to make new, not just add too. Renewing the mind is more than learning, it is changing!
Renewing our minds is not an event-it is a daily exercise.

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· 1).Become aware of how we really think-take an honest evaluation of our thought life.

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Phil.4:8(NLT) ~ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

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· 2). Become aware of how God wants us to think:  
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Psalm 119:11 (NLT) ~ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
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James 1:21 (NLT) ~ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.  
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· 3). Reject thoughts which are contrary to God's way of thinking:
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2 Cor. 10:4-5 (NKJV) ~ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.  
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· 4). Practice the thoughts of God, until they become your own:
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Prov. 4:20-22 (NKJV) ~ My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.<sup>21</sup> Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; <sup>22</sup> for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.  
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Joshua 1:8 (NKJV) ~ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
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· 5). Replace ungodly mindsets with a godly way of thinking by confession of God's word:  
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Psalm 45:1 (NKJV) ~ My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.
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1 Peter 3:10 (NKJV) ~ He who would love life and see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.