

**(Romans 12:2 NLT)** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- ✓ The Bible teaches us that the way that we change is by an inward transformation and that happens as we change the way that we **think**.

Other translations speak about the “renewing of the mind”.

So, if there are behaviors, habits, etc. that we have in our lives that need to be changed or eliminated, then they can be changed or eliminated by changing the way that we think.

### Why is this so important?

**(Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NLT)** (19) "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! (20) You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying Him, and committing yourself firmly to Him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the LORD, you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

- ✓ The direction and quality of our lives that we have today is a result of the **choices** that we made yesterday.

Often, we try and blame the quality of our lives on others or circumstances but ultimately the responsibility is ours. To make any positive change in our lives, we must start by accepting that truth.

- ✓ Whatever is **influencing** our lives the most is what helps shape the decisions that we make on a regular basis.

**(1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV)** (23) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Our spirit is the part of us that is Born-Again, and where we contact God
- Our soul is comprised of your mind, will, and our emotions.
- Our body is what enables us to move and function on the earth.

✓ Your **soul** is the seat of your decision-making process.

### ***How is your soul intended to operate?***

#### **Your Mind**

The mind has the God-given capacity to perceive and understand information and come to a logical conclusion on something. It measures and evaluates the information that is brought to you.

Based on the information that is presented to you, you make a decision – hopefully the right one.

#### **Two primary sources of input for your mind:**

1. **Your body** - lives in this natural world perceiving information through your five physical senses.
  - ✓ Your **body** is influenced by the senses it has to provide input in your decision-making process.
2. **Your spirit** – is alive unto God and provides information that cannot come to you through your physical senses but comes to us from God by the Holy Spirit and His Word.
  - ✓ God labors through your recreated **spirit** to influence your decision-making process.

God accesses your soul through your spirit by revelation in conjunction with the Word of God to affect your decision-making process.

## **Your Will**

Based on the information that you are presented in your mind, you make decisions in your life which determine both the quality of your life and your destiny.

- ✓ God has created you so that if you have the right information and process it correctly, you will make **good** and right decisions.

You have reasoning ability given to you by God. You can take information and process it and come to a logical conclusion.

*Your mind was not created to arrive at the wrong conclusion. Most people do not have enough of the right information to come to the right conclusion.*

- ✓ Often, we have enough natural information and not enough **spiritual** information.
- ✓ If you have enough of both types of information you have the capacity to come to the **right** decision.

(This is why it is best to not make hasty decisions under pressure)

## **Your Emotions**

What place do the emotions have in our souls?

The information or perception that we have about something will invoke an emotional response. Your emotions will also respond to whatever you spend time thinking about.

God's plan is that when you receive information from Him, you spend time thinking about and evaluating that information to make a decision to follow His will for your life.

When you make your decision, an emotional response will work with that decision and give you the drive and momentum to follow through on your decision to completion and fruition.

Emotions give you momentum towards the things that you have decided to do.

We say things like, “I feel very strongly that this is what I should do...”

- ✓ Our decision-making process is based on: I **think**, I **feel** and therefore I **choose**.

**(Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV)** Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, (21) to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

“According to” = “in proportion to” (Matthew 9:29 – “According to your faith be it unto you.)

Your mind is the ceiling to the power of God that we are filled with and to the degree that our mind comes into agreement with our spirits, will release that power out in you to affect your life and reality.

The more our soul comes into agreement with our spirit, will allow the supernatural power of God to work in us to bring change and victory!

- ✓ God wants His supernatural power working on the inside of us so that we are **changed** on the outside!