

“Why Think Like God”

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective:

Help people see and value the benefits of learning to think and see the life we should live from God’s perspective.

Life Group Leader preparation:

Walk away understanding that reading and studying the holy scriptures is not a bunch of requirements, but a way to help mankind live the abundant life Jesus came to give us.

Not only is it His will for you to be saved, but it is also His will for you to be free so you can know “what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” for you (Romans 12:2, KJV).

We all have a free will to make choices.... It is to our advantage to choose God’s way of thinking and doing – a godly perspective; so that we can experience the life and purpose of God in our personal life.

In this lesson we will be answering the question – Why think like God?

And so, you will become that which He has ordained that you should become, and rise up to the level of the full privileges, and rights, and authority, and dominion of a son of God. Rejoice and be glad and speak forth the Word of Faith. Speak unto those circumstances that have you bound. And command them to leave, and so you shall be loosed. Speak unto the storm that appears on the horizon of your life, and say, "Peace be still," and there will be calm. Learn what is yours, and act upon it. And it shall become yours. Thank you, Lord Jesus!
— Prophecy given by Kenneth E. Hagin, 10/19/1980 October 19, RHEMA Bible Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Week #1: God sees value in you.

Group Discussion Questions: Have you ever said to yourself, “I have to stop thinking like that” ...what was the situation or what made you say or think that?

Thinking like God will transform/change our mind to see ourselves as God sees us.

Allow the Word of God to define who you are:

Ps 8:4-6 – What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou has made him a little lower than the angels and has crowned him with glory and honor. Thou made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; though has put all things under His feet: All sheep and oxen yea, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air and fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

Rev 1:6 – and has made us kings and priests unto God and His Father....

Proverbs 23:7 – For as a man thinketh in his heart so is he.

- Search the scriptures to find how God sees you and what He expects of us.
- Purpose in your heart that you will follow God and His word.

At times in our life we may allow people, circumstances, and other outside influences to shape our thinking; but as believers we MUST let God’s Word determine the way we think. We make decisions based on our thoughts and inclinations...

We set up boundaries to maintain healthy relationships...could it be we have set up boundaries with God without realizing it? God gave us a mind to think, make decisions, say no, say yes.... God is not trying to manipulate us...he wants us to listen and obey with our free will....

“Remove the walls/barriers and let him love us by teaching us how to think like Him.”

Share with one another how God’s word has shaped your life.

- Remember the parable when Jesus said “men ought always to pray and not faint” – Luke 18:1

Let’s be honest – Discussion

How has God’s Word changed your views concerning...marriage, forgiveness, forgetting the past?

Week #2: “Change How You See Yourself”

Group Discussion Questions: What does it take to transform your thinking?

Isaiah 55:6-9 *"Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.'"*

Acts 20:32 – And now brethren; I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

And I commend you to the **Word of His** grace – to the **commands** and **counsels** and **promises** of His unmerited favor. (Amp)

As you continue to read and hear and obey the Word, your life will be changed, your mind will be renewed and transformed!

- If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: Old things are passed away behold all things have become new – 2 Cor 5:17
- Believe what God’s word says about you
- Do what God’s word tells you to do
- Say what God’s word says about you

What an awesome blessing.....The Love of God toward us through His Word.

The scripture builds us up in holiness, in faith, in love, in obedience.

We can trust His word. – trust in the Lord with all your heart, don’t lean to your own understanding - DO IT BY FAITH ...FOR WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT

- God and His word are one!
- To give you [your rightful] inheritance among all God’s set-apart ones –those consecrated, purified and transformed of soul.
- The Word of His grace
- Able to build you up
- And give you unmerited favor

Paul said, I’m entrusting to you this grace (unmerited favor) which is able to build you up; and give you an inheritance.

God IS love. He doesn’t have love, He is Love.....it takes a renewed mind to understand God’s truth. The bible also says, “he who doesn’t love doesn’t know God”.

Let's be honest – Discussion: Concerning negative habits – how has the word transformed your thinking?

Week #3: Think like a World Overcomer- more than conquerors

God said vengeance is mine, I will repay....

Does that mean I can hold a grudge against someone? What is God's view concerning your enemies or people or institutions that have treated you unfairly. Your responses should always be God's way...

Our actions are also examples to our children, friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers...

We are commanded to be able to discern and discard false ideas and philosophies....

Col 2:6-8 – So then, **just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord**, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world, rather than on Christ.

- We received Christ by faith.... continue to live in Him by faith
- For the just shall live by faith (justified – made the righteous of God in Christ Jesus)

WE HAVE BEEN MADE RIGHTEOUS BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

By faith we understand.

We have been delivered by his grace, His unmerited favor.... He paid the price for me to be an overcomer.

Now we can love one another...because of His love....

He has given us all things....2 Peter 1:3 – he has already given us all things pertaining to life and godliness....vs4 we have these precious and exceedingly great and precious promises...

He said in Psalm He will not withhold any good thing from those who love him and are called according to his purpose.

God has your future on his mind....do you? What does your future look like? God already knows.... spending time with God and the Holy Spirit will show you things to come. You won't be caught unaware....

- What a blessing – to be in a relationship with the God who knows the future and He can reveal what your part is....

Called according to his purpose?

Obeying what God has called you to do?

Don't compare yourself to someone else.....

Why Think Like God – MAY 2019

He said you are fearfully and wonderfully made....in His image, so you don't have to compete with anyone else.... Our heavenly Father has called us to love one another..... we are made in His image

Iron sharpen- Proverbs 27:17 – who are you associates, “people you hang with?”

I John 4:4-5 – for whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world... who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

I John 4:6 – We are children of God – **is a statement of fact.**

1. We are always learning to know and understand God and our relationship with Him
 - a. By observation and experience
 - b. Getting an ever-clearer knowledge of Him

In the world we see successful people. What does success mean to you...? big house, lots of money in the bank everyone thinks you're great.... etc?

- Those are blessings the Lord has promised.....

However, John said an overcomer or successful person is one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. He has given us many promises concerning overcoming the world; according to God's word, he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God is the overcomer.

Let's be honest – Discussion: Successful in one area, not so in another...what must I do?

Week #4: Renewing Your Mind

Discussion Question: Do you need a shift in your thinking?

“A paradigm shift in my thinking”

1. Know the difference between the mind of the flesh and the mind of the spirit

Romans 8:5-6 NIV - Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

- I Corinthians 2:12 – Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us.

You must know

For who hath known the mind of the Lord that we may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

YOU MUST CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK.

You say, 'I am allowed to do anything' — but not everything is good for you. And even though 'I am allowed to do anything,' I must not become a slave to anything." 1 Corinthians 6:12

- The Word of God helps you make right decisions
- Let the Word guide and lead in how you should act
- His Word is revelation – it reveals the mind of God to us
- We should embrace and value what the Word says

When God says “my thoughts toward you are good and not evil” – BELIEVE HIM

Take heed to the written word and the spoken word.....

- 1 Thess 5:21 – Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good
- 1 Thess 5:22 – Abstain from all appearance of evil
- 1 Thess 5:23 – And the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you....

Phil 1:6 – Being confident of this very thing, He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus

Proverbs 19:12 – Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails

Isaiah 55:6-9 "Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.'"