

10 STEPS TO FREEDOM
Week 4: Now You Know, and Knowing is
Half the Battle
SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS



RECAP

In this fourth sermon walking the path to freedom, Josh walked through Romans 12:2 and the discovery that the mind is the primary battlefield for our freedom. If we can win the war for our minds, if we can change the way we think, we can change the way we live.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Josh utilized the example of an all-artichoke diet to illustrate what it means to “test and approve” something (from Romans 12:2). What’s something in your life that you heard about and were at first skeptical about, but once you experienced it, now you’re an evangelist for it? What is something you’ve “tested and approved” and want others to experience as well?
2. Read Romans 12:2 together. Paul (the author of Romans) commands Christians not to be conformed to the pattern of this world. Josh utilized the illustration of plastic being formed into a pre-fabricated mold. What are some patterns, some values, some beliefs of this world that run counter to Scripture that we need to refuse to be conformed to?
3. This sermon dives into the critical part that our minds play in our freedom, and Paul makes the case that once our minds are renewed, we will be able to “test and approve” God’s good, pleasing and perfect will. How have you seen that played out in your life (how you see yourself, your relationship with God, your interaction with others)? How has your life changed for the better as your mind has been renewed and as your thinking has been transformed?
4. Read John 17:17. God’s Word is truth and is powerful enough to renovate our minds. What are some specific verses that have renovated your mind in significant ways?
5. Look at the five ways to renovate your mind through Scripture (from the message notes). Which is one that you can lean into during the coming weeks to accelerate the renovation of your mind?

NEXT STEP

- As a group, what is a Scripture passage that you can begin to memorize together for encouragement, growth and accountability? Pick something that pushes you a little. If you’ve never memorized Scripture before, even a few verses will stretch you. If you already have some Scripture verses memorized, consider pushing yourself with a larger Scripture passage to memorize.

For more information (training and support) on how to start a small group, contact steve.lizzio@cbcva.org



CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

WEEK 4: NOW YOU KNOW, AND KNOWING IS HALF THE BATTLE
ROMANS 12:2, JOHN 17:17

Step FOUR to Freedom: **Transform your** _____ **through the power of** _____.

5 WAYS TO RENOVATE YOUR MIND THROUGH SCRIPTURE

1. _____ it
2. _____ it
3. _____ it
4. _____ on it
5. Explore it _____

Bonus Content

Sunday (This Handout) - 7 Questions Worksheet on Romans 12:2 and Small Group Questions for this week
Monday (Blog) - Now You Know, and Knowing is Half the Battle
Thursday (Blog) - 5 Ways to Renovate Your Mind Through Scripture
Monday-Friday (Blog) - Devotionals from *10 Steps to Freedom* book

For bonus content and much more, visit: joshdaffern.com

ROMANS 12:2

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Do not 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. *Romans 12:2*

1. WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL READERS?

If you start with today you're twenty centuries too late.

In Romans 12:2 Paul is using two words ('conform' and 'transform') to create a contrasting image. To conform is the picture of being fitted into a mold, like plastic is shaped and formed by the mold it is poured into. The mold Paul warns believers to avoid is 'this world,' referring to the values and principles of sin and Satan. Being transformed is a metamorphosis, not of the outward appearance but the inward essence. Paul then revealed the place where transformation occurs: the renewing of the mind. The word for 'renewing' carries the idea of a renovating, what we will understand when renovating the house. When a house is renovated it is cleaned, stripped down, improved upon and updated. Walls may be ripped out, fixtures replaced, carpet pulled up and furniture updated. Renovating a house is done to improve its value and worth. Paul indicates that our transformation occurs when our mind is renovated.

It is significant and should not be glossed over that Paul pinpoints the mind as the primary object in need of renovation. Through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul understands a deep truth about human nature, that our mind drives our actions. Or to put it another way, if we can change the way we think, we can change the way we live. Every action we do begins as a thought. If we can win the battle for our mind, we can win the war. What is implicit (as opposed to explicit) is just what it is that renews the mind. From the greater context of the New Testament we see that truth (John 17:3) and God's Word (Hebrews 4:12) are powerful catalysts to affect change within the mind.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

μεταμορφώω (*metamorphoō*) is the Greek word for "transformed" and it's where we get our English word "metamorphosis" from, most commonly when caterpillars are transformed into butterflies through metamorphosis. Interestingly, the same Greek word is used in Matthew 17:2 and Mark 9:2 when they write that Jesus was "transfigured" before the eyes of Peter, James and John. It is a change of a thing or a person at its very essence, a powerful promise to those whose minds are renewed.

2. WHAT'S THE CONTEXT? *Scripture without context makes no sense.*

The context for Romans 12:2 is the finish of the first eleven chapters of Romans, where Paul presents a sweeping account of God's redemptive work in history through the sacrifice of Jesus. When Paul says 'therefore' in Romans 12:1, he's shifting from theology to application and indicating how we should live in light of God's great work in humanity. Offering our bodies as living sacrifices and renewing our minds are done as an act of worshipful response to what God Himself did first.

3. WHAT TIMELESS TRUTHS ARE THERE?

Since the Word doesn't change it still matters today.

- There are two contrasting worldviews or kingdoms vying for our allegiance: the kingdom of this world and the kingdom of God.
- When you change the way you think, you change the way you live.
- Personally experiencing the goodness of God's pleasing and perfect will happens when we put His will into action in our own lives.
- God's will for our life is good, pleasing and perfect.

5. HOW DOES IT APPLY TODAY? *Information without application becomes stagnation.*

- When we are saved by faith and follow Jesus, it absolutely transforms us. We cannot be a Christian and remain the same.
- The primary battlefield for our freedom and our sanctification is our mind.
- God's Word, illuminated and applied by the Holy Spirit within us, is a force powerful enough to 'renovate' our thinking and transform our minds.
- Metamorphosis is not instantaneous; it is a process. In the same way, our transformation is one that happens over time as we continually allow our minds to be renewed.

7. HOW CAN MY LIFE GET BETTER BECAUSE OF THESE VERSES? *If I trust God and step in faith, what kind of life will God create?*

Imagine a mind full of peace and joy. Imagine a mind overwhelmed with love and contentment, where you automatically assume the best about other people, where you respond with love instead of hate, forgiveness instead of bitterness, faith instead of doubt and peace instead of worry. Imagine a mind where you cherish the truth and reject the lies of the enemy as you would an intruder into your home. Imagine how clean and pure your soul will feel because you have been transformed through the renewing of your mind. That is the power of Scripture, the power available to every believer, the power to set you free through the renewing of your mind. The truth will set you free!

4. WHERE ELSE IN SCRIPTURE DOES IT SAY THIS? *The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture.*

2 There [Jesus] was transfigured (*μεταμορφώω*) before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. *Matthew 17:2*

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds. *Ephesians 4:22-23*

6. HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE IN COMMUNITY? *The Bible comes alive in me when I live it in community.*

- What are some examples where the way that you thought about yourself or someone else dictated your actions? Has a change in your mindset ever resulted in a change in your actions?
- What are specific ways you can begin to renew your mind? (*More than just generalities, lock in a few specific things you can do on your own and with others to renew your mind*).