

This is actually my Master's and Doctorate Thesis put together. The first 7 chapters are on the Christian growth process and the second seven chapters are on the renewing of the mind. This has been a 17 year Journey so far [2015].

This book is really about my observation of my life, Christian growth and a Journey to the Renewing of my Mind. I went from deception to reception; from death to life, from the walking dead to the living. I was a walking dead man, with an eternal soul heading for disaster only to be awoken by a horrific turning point which changed my direction down the narrow path of eternal life. The book cover is a representation of my transformation from a lifestyle of worldliness to a lifestyle of holiness. Not that I have already apprehended a flawless mature walk of holiness but, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

In Christ,

Greg

Life is a growing process. In Chapter One, I address the natural growth process from infancy to adulthood. In each state of life I address the physical, emotional and intellectual growth of life. I reflect on the need for acceptance and the need for independence, which leads us down the wrong paths. There is also something missing in the natural growth process, a lack of satisfaction, a void that needs to be filled. The first few chapters are a preparatory view of our growth in life to be compared with the thesis, in short, "Does the restoration process stop after you are born again?"

In Chapter Two, I address the void as a missing part of our created being, the spirit, and the presence of God, which can only be found in God's Holy word. I believe I was led to bring forth this truth from Titus 3: 3-5. Through the exegesis of these verses, I again point out the growth process from infancy to adulthood. I do this through elaborating on each point in which the scripture reveals; from the reason our Savior appeared (sin, original sin, the penalty of sin, grace, salvation) to the regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost process.

In Chapter Three, I address the scriptural growth process from infancy to fatherhood. As we begin to learn Bible verses, new vocabulary and Biblical terminology we also begin to walk by them. I use an analogy of our Christian growth and cement. Cement that is properly mixed and poured will continue to grow harder, strong and hold more pounds per square inch over a long period of time, about 60 years. Our faith and Christian walk when mixed properly with faith; God's word and the Holy Spirit will also mature and grow into a strong spiritual temple able to overcome the world, the devil and the flesh. This process moves us to be more Christ-like.

In Chapter Four, I first review briefly the question of, "How do we get there?" "Is it supernatural or is it a natural process?" Here is where my thesis question comes in: "Does the restoration process stop after you are born again?" Some may say or even believe we have all that we need to go to heaven. We have imputed righteousness and justification, even some may dare to say imputed sanctification, so what else do we need. From here I begin to offer up a defense to growing into your new state by putting off the old man and putting on the new man to grow into a right standing with God. Here also, I introduce a multi-faceted imputed grace that we also grow from infancy into spiritual maturity.

In Chapter Five, I defend the growth process using the doctrine of justification vs. sanctification. There is no doubt that we have imputed justification but what about sanctification? I explain our new state and the growth into our new standing. I briefly use Romans 3-8 to verify those doctrines and the importance of walking in the spirit and not the flesh. I concluded this chapter with the distinct differences of Justification and Sanctification.

In Chapter Six, I dared to delve into the close-knit doctrines of Sanctification, Purification and Holiness. I compared them to a diamond, in which the imputed bundle of grace was the diamond and the imputed doctrines of righteousness, justification, sanctification and our regenerated new nature were the four c's, (cut, carat, color and clarity), not necessarily in that order. I quoted some well-known theologians to help see the distinctions of sanctification as a three-part gift of grace. I then move to scriptural examples of the New and Old Testaments as an objectively and subjectively process. Then, I work into Holiness.

In Chapter Seven, I briefly go into the bundled graces we have received as Christians comparing them to the facets on the diamond. These facets refract God's glory to others as we usher in His Shekinah glory to others. O what a privilege to be walking in a lifestyle of holiness and be a reflection of Christ and His likeness.

So, let us continue to grow "unto the perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

Chapter Eight

This chapter looks at the different levels of our conscience viewed from a Biblical perspective. The conscience is the mental faculty, which is supposed to distinguish between right and wrong.

Chapter Nine

This chapter covers my own personal experiences in my growth in hearing the Holy Spirit's still small voice. These experiences helped me to understand and grow in my spiritual journey ultimately renovating my mind to God's will, His word, prayer, the church and other Christians.

Chapter Ten

This chapter is based on books that influenced and confirmed my studies in renewing the mind, (including its faculties, etc.), the heart, soul, spirit, conscience and much more. This chapter also opened a new meaning; for there is life in the blood, and thoughts start in the womb. I learned about thought growth and the basic nine steps where thoughts come from and how thoughts influence our behavior and emotions. It is also important to be aware of our thoughts, what we speak and think. Therefore, we must exercise our mental faculties by **✂ZAPPING✂** negative, fear-based thoughts and replacing them with positive faith-based thoughts, like God's Word.

Chapter Eleven

The mind: this chapter takes a look at a word study from the King James Version Bible. In the first four places in the KJV the word mind is translated from the Hebrew words: soul, Genesis 23:8; spirit, Genesis 26:35; mouth, Leviticus 24:11; and heart, Numbers 16:28. I started with the Greek New Testament word study for the mind. Some of its definitions are: the seat of emotions, mode of thinking and feeling, equivalent to the heart, reason, conscience, understanding, intellect, etc. This helps us to see the mind is greater than just what is in our brain. We need to mind those things in our mind, so we can be transformed by the renewing of our mind and everything that can be effected or can affect our minds.

Chapter Twelve

In this chapter I take a closer look at the tabernacle experience in Chapter 2; where I wondered if God designed us like the tabernacle. God told Moses to build the tabernacle so that He may dwell in it. I took a look at the furniture and other pieces that were in the tabernacle and broke them down, comparing them to the heart, the mental faculties, our external senses, and our body as the outer court surrounded by God's silver lining of love.

Chapter Thirteen

In this chapter I explored the realization of the relationship of the Holy Spirit and you. God's divine nature dwells in us. We are His Temple and he desires His Temple to be pure and holy. When we have a relationship with Him; He will lead us, guide us, and direct us in the will of God.

Chapter Fourteen

This chapter is about drawing near to God. It is a process that leads to the lifestyle of holiness. We must make a choice of whom we will fear. Either it will be man or God. One is a prideful stance, and the other is a humble stance. One leads to death, the other life.