

THE TRUTH HERALD

Being Heavenly Minded

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1 – If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things on the earth... (Col 3: 1, 2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12: 1, 2)

Being heavenly minded is renewing your mind according to the mind of Christ, and walking in your renewed mind. It is striving to put heaven's priorities into daily practice in our daily lives. To do this, we must know heaven's priorities, i.e., the mind of Christ. That is, we must get to know the mind of Christ and renew our minds. Our actions will then be transformed by the renewal of our minds (Romans 12: 1, 2). Thus, God's word tells the believer: "Lie not to one another, seeing that ye have *put off the old man with his deeds*; and have put on the new man, which is *renewed in knowledge* after the *image* of Him that created him." (Col 3: 9, 10). It also tells us that, "a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). Clearly, thoughts and actions go together.

2 – Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:15). And I will ask the Father; and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. (John 14: 16, 17). But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name (John 1:12).

The Bible encourages all believers to renew their minds (Phil. 2:5). After one receives Christ as his or her personal Savior, one becomes a believer in Christ, and the Holy Spirit comes to live in their heart (Acts 19:2). Their minds must then be renewed (Phil 2:5). Believers have all the help they need in renewing their minds and walking in Christ on a daily basis; we have this help in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads and guides the believer into all truth (John 14: 16-18, 26; John 16:13), and gives us power to grow in maturity in Christ, i.e., to walk as mature followers of Christ, to become the sons of God (John 1:12). God works in us to will and to act to fulfill His purpose (Philippians 2:13).

3 – Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Phil. 4:8)

To mind something is to be wholly focused on that thing. When I am minding my business, I am focused on thinking about and doing my own affairs. When I am heavenly minded, I am wholly focused on Christ's priorities – in my thoughts and with my actions. Minding the things of heaven involves dwelling on and putting into practice things that are **true**, things that are **honest**, things that are **just**, things that are **pure**, things that are **lovely**, things that are of **good report**, things that are **virtuous**, things that are **praiseworthy**. The Bible exhorts believers to meditate on the Word of God and put it into practice. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth,; but thou shalt *meditate* therein day and night, that thou mayst *observe to do* according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:8). We are helped by the Holy Spirit to meditate on and walk in Christ.

4 – Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks through Him to God the Father (Col. 3:17)

Being heavenly-minded involves dwelling on and practicing **tenderhearted mercy**, **kindness**, **humility**, **gentleness**, and **patience** (Col 3:12), with the help of the Holy Spirit. "Make allowance for each other's faults, and **forgive** anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with **love**, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the **peace** that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. Always be **thankful**. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, **do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ**, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." (Col 3: 13-17). Being heavenly minded is imitating Christ every moment of our lives in everything we do or say.