

SPIRITUAL DYNAMICS

Session #3

EXPLORING THE NEED FOR TRANSFORMATION IN THINKING AND THE CONCEPT OF YIELDEDNESS

Presented To
The Church of the Servant King
Dallas, Texas

Purpose

- To substantiate from Scripture the need for transformation in the thinking of the believer.
- To explore the relationship between 1) the two influences to which a believer can yield and 2) momentum in thought paradigms, attitudes and belief systems

Summary Statement

The believer must know that he can yield to one of two influences in life – the sin nature or the Holy Spirit. The believer must know that God sees us as dead to the sin nature and its influence (Rom 6.6). The believer must reckon or believe that he is dead to the sin nature and its influence (Rom 6.11). The believer must yield in his thinking to the influence of the Holy Spirit (Rom 6.13). Scripture is replete with exhortations and references to the primacy of the believer's thought process in relation to the spiritual life.

Why is this Study Important?

Essential to the believer's conformity to the character of God by means of the Spirit (Eph 5.18) is the need for transformation in the believer's thinking.

The Need for Transformation in the Believer

The Internal Battle: the Flesh vs. the Spirit

1. The believer will find it difficult to be transformed in his thinking because of two opposing forces at work in his life.

Gal 5.17 – For the **flesh** sets its desire **against** the **Spirit**, and the **Spirit** [sets its desire] **against** the **flesh**; for these are in **opposition** to one another, so that you **may** not do the things that you please.

2. The "flesh" is a synonym for the sin nature (Rom 5.12-14).
3. Note that both the flesh and the Spirit have desires (Gal 5.17).
4. A representative listing of the desires of the flesh are found in Gal 5.19-21 and Col 3.5, 8, & 9.

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like (Gal 5.19-21a) [NKJV]

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. (Gal 5.19-21a) [NASV]

Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds. (Col 3.5-9) [NKJV]

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices. (Col 3.5-9) [NASV]

1. A representative listing of the desires of the Spirit are listed in Gal 5.22-23 and Col 3.12-13.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Gal 5.22-23) [NKJV]

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal 5.22-23) [NASV]

Thinking and the Christian Way of Life

1. Numerous passages address the issue of the believer's thought process as it relates to a need for a transformation and as it relates to the believer's spiritual status. For instance,

Prov 23:7a For as he **thinks within himself, so he is...** (NASV)

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (NASV)

Rom 14:5 One man regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Let each man be fully convinced **in his own mind**. (NASV)

1 Cor. 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the **same mind** and in the same judgment. (NASV)

Eph. 4:23 and that you **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (NASV)

Phil. 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with **one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel; (NASV)

Phil. 2:2-3 make my joy complete by being of the **same mind**, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from

selfishness or empty conceit, but with **humility of mind** let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; (NASV)

Col.3:2 **Set your mind** on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. (NASV)

2. The mentality of the believer's soul can be **influenced** by either the old sin nature or the Holy Spirit.
3. Under the **influence** of the sin nature, the mentality produces old man thinking.
4. Under the **influence** of the Holy Spirit, the mentality produces new man thinking.

But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the **old self** with its evil practices, and have put on the **new self** who is **being renewed to a true knowledge** according to the image of the One who created him. (Col 3.8-10) [NASV]

5. The believer will produce a lifestyle consistent with the influence to which the believer yields. (A "lifestyle" includes the priorities one attaches to money, entertainment, pleasure activities, etc. as well as the "friends" one chooses or desires. A "lifestyle" includes what one does with his/her free time, the job one chooses, and how one views his/her spiritual gift and pursues a personal ministry compatible with that spiritual gift).
6. The ultimate source of old man thinking is Satan who makes it available to man through various mediums, e.g. mass media, magazines, other people influenced by their sin natures, "religion," etc.
7. The default setting for our mentality is to be influenced by the sin nature.
8. New-man thinking can be learned from any source that carries it and disseminates it, e.g. the pastor, other Christians, tapes, books, etc.
9. Thus, there is a need for transformation in the believer's thinking in order for the believer to advance from babyhood to adolescence to maturity.

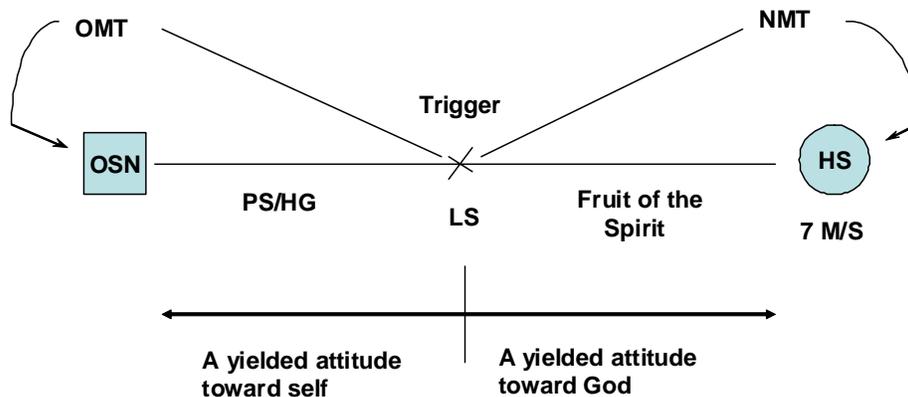
Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. (Col 3.10) [NKJV]

Life Situations are Opportunities for Self-Evaluation

1. Throughout life, the believer builds momentum in his/her thinking in one of two directions – old man thinking or new man thinking.
2. Momentum is built as the believer makes choices in life situations based upon the direction in which the believer is yielded – towards the old sin nature or towards God.
3. Over time, attitudes develop in the believer's soul that are the result of the direction in which the believer has consistently yielded.
4. These attitudes are products of the momentum in the believer's life as the believer develops patterns of thinking in reaction or response to life situations.
5. The believer who has momentum in being yielded to the sin nature develops attitudes that are the product of old man thinking.
6. The believer who has momentum in being yielded to God develops attitudes that are the product of new man thinking.

7. The believer must yield to “new man” thinking (God’s viewpoint) in order to be transformed into a believer who is characterized as possessing the “fullness of God”. (See Col 3.8-10 for the Biblical injunction to “put off” old man thinking and “put on” new man thinking).
8. The concept of yieldedness is an integral component of our understanding of how to be “filled with the Spirit” per Eph. 5.18.
9. The Life Situations that we encounter can serve as self-examinations of the direction in which we are yielded. See the following diagram.

Abbreviation	Meaning	Abbreviation	Meaning
LS	Life Situations	PS/HG	Personal sins/human good
OMT	Old man thinking	7M/S	7 Manifestations of the Spirit
OSN	Old sin nature	NMT	New man thinking



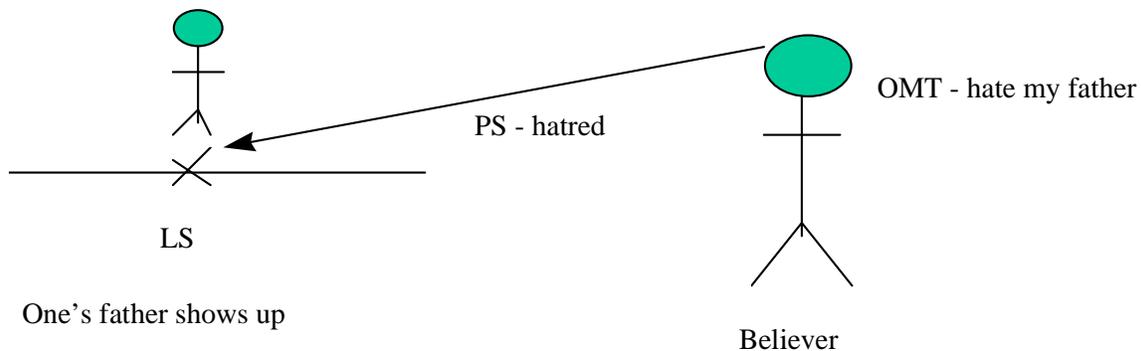
1. The believer who is yielded in his/her thinking towards old man thinking (i.e. self) – A LS triggers old man thinking - old man thinking arises from and is stimulated by the old-sin nature. The old sin nature produces personal sins or human good in reaction to the life situation.
2. The believer who is yielded in his/her thinking towards new man thinking (specifically the identification truths of Romans 6) – A LS triggers new man thinking - new man thinking yields to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit produces the appropriate fruit of the Spirit (i.e. love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).
12. The believer who has a yielded attitude towards the new man thinking that is borne of the Spirit’s ministry in that believer’s life will manifest the Christian character required of the believer per Paul’s injunction in Ephesians 5.18 – “...be filled with the character of God by means of the Spirit...”
13. Underlying every act of personal sin or human good is an associated mental attitude that is acquired, learned and reinforced through yielding to the sin nature’s influence. For instance,
 - a. Mental sins (hatred, bitterness, jealousy, anger, etc.) have an associated mental attitude.
 - b. Sins of the tongue (gossip, maligning) have an associated mental attitude.
 - c. Overt sins (fornication, adultery, assault, embezzlement) have an associated mental attitude.
 - d. Sins of omission (quenching the HS) have an associated mental attitude.
 - e. Liberty sins (violation of the law of liberty) have an associated mental attitude.

14. The OSN has the potential to motivate the believer to commit every type of personal sin.
15. The question is whether or not an individual has learned the specific type of OMT required to activate the OSN and influence the believer to produce the specific type of personal sin.

16. Examples of learned mental attitudes:

	<u>Mental Attitude</u>	<u>Personal Sin</u>
a. MS	"My race is better than others"	Hatred, approbation lust
b. SOT	I'm insecure, so I need a clique	Gossip, maligning
c. OS	This is not really a sin	Cheating, lying, stealing, fornication
d. S/O	I don't want to be "weird"	Quench the Spirit's leadership
e. L/S	Nobody should dictate to me	Eating meat offered to an idol

17. Another diagram:



18. This diagram illustrates the following:

- a. An old man system of thinking is present in this believer's subconscious mind.
- b. When the father shows up, old man thinking that has been relegated to the subconscious mind is brought into the stream of consciousness thinking.
- c. The believer has a choice to either yield to old man thinking and produce personal sins or he can yield to new man thinking and produce the appropriate fruit of the Spirit.
- d. For the believer to yield to new man thinking, he must learn new man thinking through Bible study.
- e. The believer who waits for life situations to occur prior to determining to yield is walking a dangerous spiritual path. This could be considered yieldedness as a matter of convenience, i.e. when it's convenient, I'll yield. This believer has not truly "died to self" per Rom. 12:1.
- f. The believer who has made a conscious decision to be yielded has in effect predetermined the course of thinking (i.e. new man thinking) he/she will follow prior to a life situation ever presenting itself. This could be termed "Preventive Yieldedness".
- g. The Holy Spirit ministers to such a yielded believer so as to empower him to respond properly in any given life situation (Phil 1.6).
- h. However, there must be spiritual Truth or doctrine in the believer's soul with which the Holy Spirit can work His ministry in the life of the believer.
- i. Through the concept of Know, Reckon and Yield, God has made the resources available so that a believer does not have to sin.
- j. While the believer does not have to sin, the believer still has the option to yield to the influence of the sin nature and commit acts of sin.

- k. The conscious decision by the believer to yield to the Spirit of God as a matter of *modus vivendi* (i.e. preventive yieldedness) will result in periods of “volitional perfection.” (This is distinguished from the erroneous teaching of “sinless perfection”).
18. What if the believer does sin? The solution:
- a. **PS after** it has been committed - confession per 1 John 1.9
 - b. Mental attitudes - repentance consistent with 2 Tim 2.25; Rev. 2.5; 3.19
 - c. Old man thinking from the OSN - Operation KRY per Rom. 6.6, 11, 13