

Pastor Keith Moore



PT. 3 – SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME (TRANSFORMED)

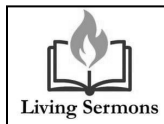
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Pt. 3 – Shape of Things to Come (Transformed)

Preacher: Pastor Keith Moore

Publisher: LivingSermons.com

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Foreword

What if the person standing between you and the life God has called you to live is the person looking back at you in the mirror?

That is not an easy question.

*We often pray for change. We ask God to remove the obstacle, break the bondage, open the door, fix the problem, and change the situation. Yet Scripture reveals something that may be far more confronting: **transformation is closely connected to the renewing of the mind.***

In this powerful teaching, Pt. 3 – Shape of Things to Come, Keith Moore takes us beyond the surface of Christian language and brings us face-to-face with a vital question:

What are you thinking?

Thoughts are not empty. They are not harmless visitors passing through the mind. Thoughts shape perception, words, choices, actions, and ultimately the direction of a life. The thoughts we continually receive and embrace have the power to conform us to one image—or transform us into another.

The world is constantly trying to shape us. Culture speaks. Fear speaks. Tradition speaks. Failure speaks. The enemy speaks. But above every competing voice stands the Word of God, carrying the thoughts of God Himself. And herein lies the invitation of this message. You do not have to remain the person you have been.

You do not have to be permanently shaped by your past, your environment, your failures, or the thinking you inherited from others. There is another process at work.

“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

— Romans 12:2

Transformation is not merely about trying harder to behave better. It begins when God's thoughts begin to replace thoughts that never came from Him.

Like a potter who sees the finished vessel while others see only a lump of clay, God sees beyond the unfinished places in us. Through His Word and by His Spirit, He continues His work of shaping, molding, renewing, and transforming those who yield themselves to Him.

As you read these pages, do not rush.

Pause.

Consider the thoughts you have accepted as truth. Ask the Lord to expose every idea about Him, yourself, and your future that does not come from Him. Be willing to let go of religious tradition, natural assumptions, fear, and every distorted thought that has occupied space in your mind.

Then make room for the real thing. The shape of your future may be connected to the thoughts you choose to receive today. May this message help you see more clearly, think more deeply, and behold Christ more fully—until, from glory to glory, you are transformed into the image you were created to reflect.

The clay is still on the wheel. The Potter is still working. And the transformation is not finished.

— Wisdom Epsi

Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

[Watch Keith Moore](#) as he teaches in the live sermon as from which this message was transcribed on YouTube.

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Main Message

Begins Here



Introduction

Romans 12. We began some weeks ago on the subject we're calling **Transformed**.

Somebody say, “**Transformed.**”

Do you like the sound of that?

Transformed.

He said in **Romans 12:2**:

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Everybody read it out loud with me:

“Be not conformed to this world.”

Now, if the Lord tells you that, what should you do?

Don't be conformed to this world.

The word *conformed* means to fashion alike. It means to conform to the same pattern.

CHAPTER ONE

The Pressure to Conform

The world that we live in is pressuring us, and everybody in it, to conform to ungodliness. You hear the term *peer pressure*. Well, it's a spiritual reality. Unbelievers on the job, unbelievers in the workplace, unbelievers in the neighborhood, in the community—those that don't believe in God—the very fabric of society, the very environment of the whole planet.

The Bible says Satan is the god of this world. And we were just reading in 1 John, weren't we?

The fifth chapter talks about that, that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one. Well, that's a pressure and an influence. And that's why, when you get born again and you stand up and say, “**I love the Lord Jesus,**” pressure will come to bear to shut you up.

And when you don't want to do this sin or that sin, when you don't want to participate in this or that, pressures will come to try to make you feel like an oddball—to make you feel like something is wrong with you and that you need to conform.

You need to hush and be quiet about Jesus and this God stuff, and let the world shape you into itself. But something ought to yell from the inside of you and say:

“No, no. I am in the world, but I am not of this world. I am not like this world.”

There Are Two Families

You know, there are whole religions and movements that try to say, “Well, we're all brothers and sisters,” and that's not true.

That's just not true. There are two families in the earth. Jesus talked about it extensively. There's the family of Satan. Jesus told some of the most religious people of His day:

“Ye are of your father the devil...”

— **John 8:44**

Didn't He tell them that?

How many think the Lord knows what He's talking about?

He's right.

And unless you have been born again, you're in that family. And you are a child of darkness. People don't notice it because we're living in a world of darkness, and that is the spirit of the whole thing. But when you've been born again, you've been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son, and you're different.

You're different. You are changed.

And the Lord tells you, **“Don't conform to this ungodly world.”**

And you're supposed to say: **“Yes, Sir, I won't.”**

Don't be conformed.

Don't Let the World Shape You

It's trying to mold you. It's trying to shape you into itself. And you're not to allow it. You're not like them, and you're not supposed to be. They need to become like you.

“Boy, that's conceited and egotistical.”

It's the truth. If you're not born again, you need to be. Conformed.

Don't be conformed to this world, but what?

Instead of letting the world squeeze us and shape us into the likeness of itself, there's something else that can happen in us.

Not conformity, but **transformation**.

Changed Into Another Form

Now, this word is from the Greek word from which we get our word *metamorphosis*. What happens when a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. It means to change into another form.

And this is for born-again people. See, just because you got born again doesn't mean that your mind automatically thinks right. That's why He tells us here that you need to be transformed.

And how is it going to happen?

The rest of the phrase says what?

By the renewing of your mind.

Now think about what He's saying. You'll be changed into another form as your mind is renewed. You'll be changed into a different person. Do we believe this or not?

Transformation Is Not Automatic

Now, there's been an error with a lot of folks in church trying to get people changed who need to change, but only doing it through prayer, or through the laying on of hands, or through some of the things that they consider to be the most spiritual.

And obviously, we believe in prayer.

Obviously, we believe in the laying on of hands.

But He didn't say, **“Transformed by prayer.”**

He didn't say, **“Transformed by the laying on of hands.”**

Because a whole lot of times people are wanting you to say:

“Just pray for me and fix it for me.”

And you can't.

Unless you can get their mind changed, they're not going to change.

“Well, just pray for me. Pray for me until my mind changes.”

I can't.

I can pray for you. I can join with you. But your mind is in your control.

And the Lord is not going to make you stop thinking wrong things and start thinking right things.

And the devil can't.

Your Mind Is Your Mind

Now, he will do his best to convince you that you can't help but think things you don't want to think. And if you buy into that, you're in trouble. I said, if you believe that lie, you're done.

But it's a lie.

Your mind is your mind.

And you can think on what you choose to think on, and not think on what you choose not to think on.

That's the truth.

And that truth will make you free. Now, there are some things you could do to make it easier or harder for you, but don't doubt that truth. Everybody say it out loud:

“My mind is my mind. I don't have to think anything I don't want to think.

I can choose to think anything I choose to think.

My mind is my mind.”

Glory to God.

Come Back to the Bible

And so, there hasn't been enough emphasis sometimes on this, and people think:

“I just need y'all to pray for me more.”

“I just need y'all to lay hands on me.”

No.

Do you want to be changed into another person?

Come back to the Bible.

The Bible said that transformation happens by what?

By the renewing of your mind.

Well then, let's not cast the Word aside and try to get it done some other way.

How many know you're going to get in trouble ignoring what the Lord told you and trying to do it another way?

“Well, I'm just going to pray until it happens.”

“I'm just going to fast until it happens.”

“I'm going to go to every meeting and get people to lay hands on me until it happens.”

No.

If you ignore what He told you to do, you'll get frustrated because you'll get everybody and their brother to pray for you, and you'll do all this stuff, and you'll still be in bondage.

You won't be changed, and you'll wonder why.

And people will get mad at God.

“Why won't You help me?”

“Why won't You do this?”

Well, no.

Why won't you do what He told you to do?

CHAPTER TWO

God Is Not Your Problem

How many have figured out God is not your problem?

He's not the One holding us back, and if we'll just talk Him into doing something for us, we could get somewhere.

No.

You know the biggest hindrance you've ever had?

The person you see in the mirror.

You can't even blame it on the devil because he's limited in what he can do without your or my cooperation.

Do you understand?

If the devil could control you and destroy you, he would have already done it a long time ago.

He's limited in what he can do.

He must have our cooperation.

But now, he's very crafty.

He's very subtle.

He doesn't come to the front door and say, **“Would you cooperate with me?”**

No.

He will bring thoughts to you.

He will bring feelings.

He will endeavor to influence you.

And his preference is that you don't even know it's him.

He'd prefer you don't even believe in the devil.

It just makes his work easier.

But no, that's trying to conform us to something else that we're not supposed to be.

We can be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

Say it out loud:

“Transformed.

Changed into another form by the renewing of my mind.”

Hungry for a Renewed Mind

Are you interested in getting your mind renewed?

Are you hungry?

Tell the Lord and say:

“Lord, I'm hungry. I'm desirous. I want my mind to be renewed. I'm willing. I seek You. Show me how, in Jesus' name.”

Thank You, Lord.

Well, that's what we're doing right here.

Right now.

Now, we've already covered some ground, and if you haven't been with us before, let me encourage you: go back and get the previous messages.

It will help you to get more out of what we're doing and be able to hook in and go forward with what we're doing now.

This Is One Big Subject

Go with me, if you would, to the Book of Acts and the fourteenth chapter. I want us to pray together and believe further for just a moment here. This is one big subject.

How big is the mind of God?

We're touching some things that are ancient from eternity past in God and extend to eternity future in God.

We don't even know how to think about that.

But it comes to bear with what we are, how God has made us, what He's made us to be, and how we will operate throughout the ages to come.

Did you know your future does not involve pain, struggle, and the sweat of your brow?

Did you know that?

Well, how are you going to operate if not that way? It's not going to be the way the earth is now.

How will we function?

How will we operate?

We're going to function like sons of God.

How do sons of God function?

Like God, whose sons they are. Even in this life here and now, we're told to be imitators of God as dear children.

God is not grunting and straining or sweating.

How has He done what He has done?

And how will He do in time to come?

Well, we know He did it by His spoken Word.

But what is a word but a thought expressed?

Words Are Thoughts Expressed

A word—I'm speaking words to you right now—but if I started speaking in another language that you didn't understand, what would it mean to you?

I would be saying the same thing, but what would it mean to you?

Nothing.

Why?

Because the sounds bouncing off your eardrums are not conveying the thoughts.

So, you can see the Lord has had us on words on Sunday, and this is the perfect companion, isn't it?

Because what are words?

They are thoughts spoken.

Thoughts expressed.

If you were here last time we spoke on this, I asked you a question.

What is a thought?

Anybody remember the question?

Did you get the answer yet?

What is a thought?

We throw the words around. We've lived with them our whole lives. People talk about:

“I'm thinking.”

“I had a thought.”

“What are you thinking?”

“We got together and talked it over and thought about it.”

What does that mean?

What did we do when we thought?

What was going on?

What is a thought?

Where do they come from?

How do they exist?

What is their purpose?

Say it out loud: **“What is a thought?”**

Before we go to Acts, go to Psalms. I think we have to work our way to Acts.

God Understands Our Thoughts

Psalms 139.

Psalms 139:1 says:

“O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my
downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.”

— **Psalms 139:1–2**

He sees, knows, and understands our thoughts from a distance.

He sees us getting to a thought before we get there.

He knows where we're going, where that thought is coming from, and where it is going.

Do thoughts matter?

If thoughts were inconsequential and unimportant, would God bother to know your thoughts afar off?

One of the first steps toward getting our minds renewed is that we must acknowledge, embrace, and believe that thoughts are significant.

Thoughts are not nothing.

Thoughts are important.

And it matters a great deal whether we think a thought or don't.

Keep reading.

He said:

“Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.”

— **Psalm 139:3–4**

He saw the thought before you got to it, and then He saw the word before you spoke it.

And what is a word?

It's a thought spoken. A thought expressed.

“Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.”

— **Psalm 139:5–6**

CHAPTER THREE

Things Bigger Than Beginning and End

In our present state, for lack of a better word, it boggles us to try to comprehend what doesn't have a beginning and what doesn't have an end. Because everything we've ever come in contact with has a start, a middle, and a finish. But we're dealing with things bigger than that. We're a part of things bigger than things that have a beginning and an end.

“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?”

— **Psalm 139:7**

And he talks about how the Lord is everywhere.

Verse 17—notice this:

“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.”

— **Psalm 139:17–18**

How Precious Are God's Thoughts

God's thoughts are awesome. How can you describe it?

They are too wonderful for mere words.

And yet, they are expressed in different degrees through words.

This Book—what is it?

Somebody said, **“It's God's Word.”**

Okay, but what does that mean?

Some of these letters that are grouped together mean nothing to different people in different countries. Right?

What is this Book?

It is a collection of containers of God's thoughts.

You can read them. You can hear them. And a thought that came up in God can come into you. And we can think God's thoughts.

Is that big?

How big is it to think God's thoughts?

We Are Not Just Animals

Now, this is another evidence that we are not just a more highly evolved animal. Your puppy, as great as he may be, is not thinking God's thoughts tonight. Nor is your cat.

They're not in the same class of being that we are. They're amazing creations. They're amazing.

But they're not us.

We're not even angels.

You hear people talk about, "God took this one because He needed another angel in the choir."

We're not angels.

We're in a different class of being.

We have freedoms angels don't have.

We're created in the very likeness and image of God.

I'm getting ahead of myself a little bit.

What is an image?

Jesus is the Word of God.

He's also the image of God.

The express, exact image.

The Word expressed the image.

And you and I are born and predestined to be conformed to the same image.

Glory to God.

Those last statements came right out of my spirit; didn't even touch my mind.

Glory to God.

He's answering our prayer.

Glory to God.

The Greatest Hunger

I want you to read this verse out loud, verse 17.

Say it for yourself:

“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!”

— **Psalm 139:17**

Is that true?

Who are you talking to?

O God!

How great is the sum of them!

People are hungry to read the latest novel, to watch the latest movie, to get the latest gizmo, gadget, or technology.

We ought to be hungry to hear a thought of God, shouldn't we?

That ought to be the greatest hunger we have: to find out what God thinks.

Because there's power in His thoughts when we think them—to renew our insides and cause us to be transformed into something else than what we were.

Glory to God.

I'm a different person than I was twenty years ago, thirty years ago.

I'm believing that I'll be a different person next year than I am now, and the next.

How will it come to pass?

Transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Thank You, Lord.

Somebody say, **“Thank You, Lord.”**

Say it again, verse 17. Say it again to the Lord:

“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God.”

Hallelujah.

You ought to lie in your bed tonight and tell Him that again.

You ought to get up in the morning, go down the road, and say:

“Oh God, Your thoughts—Your thoughts are precious to me above any material thing.”

Your thoughts.

Your thoughts.

The Thoughts That Saved You

Do you know why you're born again?

Do you know why you're even saved?

Do you know why you're not going to hell?

Anybody know in here?

Somebody preached words, and you heard those words and the thoughts.

Oh, what a thought!

The thought of the truth that the Redeemer came and the Word became flesh. God became man.

Hallelujah.

And He took your sins, and He took mine, and He died on the cross, and He paid the price, and He rose from the dead.

There was a time you didn't know those thoughts. There was a time you had never thought those thoughts. What did those thoughts do to you?

You heard those words, and as you're hearing those words, you're thinking those thoughts.

And your heart was agreeable to it, and you opened yourself up to it, and the Holy Ghost came and got in the chair with you, and convicted you, and moved on you.

And you might have cried.

And you might have laughed. And you might have praised God. And you gave your heart to the Lord, and you were born again.

Words Whereby You Shall Be Saved

The Lord told Cornelius:

“Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.”

— **Acts 11:13–14**

Why?

Because those words contain God's thoughts.

Now, there are other thoughts in the earth that are not of God, and the world is full of them.

And if you think them, just like God's thoughts will transform you, if you think these wrong thoughts, perverted thoughts, evil thoughts, bad thoughts, they will conform you to the ungodly world.

If you are transformed by the renewing of your mind, how are you conformed to the world?

By failing to renew your mind and thinking the wrong things.

Down at the end of the Psalms, in verse 23, the psalmist prayed this.

You and I should pray it too.

He had just said a few verses earlier how precious God's thoughts are, and here he says in verse 23:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts.”

— **Psalms 139:23**

Now, we know He already said He knows them afar off.

Verse 24:

“And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

— **Psalm 139:24**

Do you want to know if you've been thinking wrong?

I Want to Know Him as He Really Is

I have prayed quite a bit about this in recent months. Join me in this. I believe your heart is the same. There is so much said about God that is wrong.

There is so much—even preaching, talking, and teaching about God—that is absolutely wrong.

It is misrepresentative of God.

And there are so many people that don't know God. Religious people—they don't know God—and yet they assume that nobody knows God any better than they do.

And they don't know Him.

So, they can just create anything they want to imagine is God and say, “God said this,” and “God did that,” and “God is like this,” and “God is like that,” and thousands of people will run and shout about it.

And it's got nothing to do with Him.

I have a desire to be rid of all that is not Him.

Every goofy, twisted, distorted, religious concept and idea that's got nothing to do with God—I want it out of me.

I want it away from me.

I want to see Him the way He really is and know Him in truth.

My job is ministry.

I have prayed this many a time over the years, and it is such a desire of mine:

“Lord, help me not to misrepresent You. Help me not to tell anything about You or leave a wrong impression about You.”

I believe it's happening.

I believe the Lord is helping us.

He's teaching us and helping us to get purged of the junk.

Don't Assume

See, a lot of stuff you grew up with came from your parents, their parents, and their parents before them.

And if something has been in generations like that for that long, you may not even notice it.

And there's a whole lot of stuff that people just assume.

I don't want to assume.

Do you?

If I've been assuming, I want to know.

I want the Lord to help me—to get me by the nape of the neck and say:

“No, I'm not like that. No, I didn't say that. No, I've never been like that. No, I've never done that. No, that's not how it works. That's not Me.”

I want to know.

Don't you?

I want to know.

And I'm believing He's teaching us and showing us.

And in that happening, what's happening?

We're thinking God's thoughts after Him.

Can you see the mind is getting renewed and getting changed?

And what's that going to do to us?

We're going to change.

We're going to quit doing some stuff we were doing, and we're going to change.

And we may start doing some things we weren't doing.

Why?

Because we're not being conformed.

Somebody said, **“Being conformed to the world.”**

Yeah, but a whole lot of the world has gotten into the church.

Religious Does Not Always Mean God

Just because it's religious and has melodious organ tones and stained glass doesn't mean it has anything to do with God.

Are y'all with me?

And you can dress up, and you can fix your hair, and you can put on a tie, or this or that, and say, "Hallelujah," "Glory," and "Amen," and not have one thing to do with God.

And I just despise all of that.

How about you?

Life is short.

We don't have time to play with junk.

And if the Lord is not interested in it, I'm not interested in it.

If He doesn't care about it, I don't care about it.

If it's important to Him, I want it to be important to me.

That's what we're talking about.

Being renewed so that we think like He does and we see things like He does.

God Is Real and He Is Knowable

Is He real, saints?

Come on, is He real?

Is He real?

He's not a figment of somebody's imagination.

He's not a bunch of religious junk.

He is real.

God Almighty is sitting on the throne right now, tonight.

He created the heavens and the earth.

He's real.

He's real.

And He is knowable.

I said, **He's knowable.**

Jesus, as a man, walked in close fellowship with the Father.

Did He show us how it's done?

And what He knew of the Father made the religious world so mad, they killed Him.

Didn't they?

And He had to tell them over and over again.

He said:

“I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you.”

— **John 8:55**

Because you say you know Him.

And some of the most religious people, He said:

“Ye are of your father the devil...”

— **John 8:44**

God is not your Father.

Well, man, they were the high priests. They were the most regarded people in the whole area.

And He's telling them they don't even know God.

Isn't that awful?

Preachers and leaders of the people don't even know God.

Awful.

But it does not have to be.

I said, **it does not have to be.**

Let the Lord Show You

We're about to pray this.

Let's believe and allow the Lord to teach us and show us what is not Him and what is Him.

Are you willing, saints?

If you'll do this, He'll show you some things that you were just sure were God for the last forty years of your life.

But let's not be content and stay in the dark. We're getting renewed in our mind. We need some stuff erased. We need some stuff inputted—new.

And what will it do to us?

What will it do to us?

It will transform us into different people.

Verse 23. Pray it out loud sincerely to the Lord.

Say:

“Lord, search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Show me what is You and what is not You. What is Your truth, and what are men's ideas?

What is right, and what is wrong?

In Jesus' name. Amen.”

CHAPTER FOUR

Make Room for the Real

See, all this stuff that men have come up with about God is in the way of the real thing. If you're full of that, spending all your time with that, it's displacing the real. And you have to turn loose and get rid of the junk to make room for the real.

And let's not love tradition more than we love the Lord.

If He shows you something that you and your folks and your group—any of us, myself included—thought and said that you were so sure was right, if He shows you that's wrong and it's not Him, what are you going to do?

What are you going to do?

What if you yourself preached it over the last ten years?

You're so strong on it, you'd yell it from the rooftop. What are you going to do?

Help me out.

Will you humble yourself?

Will you repent?

Will you admit that you were wrong?

If you will, **you can be transformed.**

You can become a different person.

Glory to God.

Somebody say, “**Glory to God.**”

Transformed.

Thank You, Lord.

You know, you ought not amen everything.

You ought not amen everybody.

Thank You, Lord, for having mercy on us.

It's not about who's right.

It's about what's right.

We know Who's right.

God is right.

His Word is right.

Amen.

What Is a Thought?

You still have Acts?

Don't be conformed, but be transformed by the renewing—renewing, thank You, Master—of your mind.

Thank You, Lord.

What is a thought?

I'm not quite ready to read Acts.

What is a thought?

Go to Genesis.

How about that?

We'll have to work our way to Acts.

Genesis, the sixth chapter and the eleventh chapter.

Genesis 6:5, then we'll go to Genesis 11.

We need to answer this question:

What is a thought?

The Imagination of the Thoughts of His Heart

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth...”

— **Genesis 6:5**

This was right before the great flood in Noah's time.

And He saw what?

How did the world get to the place where it just needed to be destroyed?

It was so foul, so perverted, and distorted that God Himself said, “This thing just needs to be wiped out.”

Here He tells you:

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

— **Genesis 6:5**

Did you hear that phrase?

Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

What were people thinking?

They were only thinking and imagining evil all the time.

I mean, wherever there were groups of people—in camps, cities, and tribes—if you could have flown around the earth at that time and you could have touched down over here and seen what people were thinking, they weren't thinking about God.

They weren't thinking about doing any good or helping anybody.

They were thinking about stealing, lying, adultery, fornication, perversion, and murder.

And you'd go over here to this part of the country, and it would be the same thing.

Over here, the same thing.

It would be like, in the U.S., going to New York—the same thing. Florida—the same thing. California—the same thing.

Everywhere you went.

The only exception on the planet was Noah and his family.

Everywhere else, everybody was continuously thinking and imagining perversion, evil, and ungodliness.

How did the world get to such a state?

You can see the work of the enemy, can't you?

Something was going on to influence the whole world to think that way.

Wasn't it?

The Minds of Them Which Believe Not

Hold your place there and go to 2 Corinthians 4.

Actually, we'll read the fourth chapter, and then we might back up to the third chapter.

Did it matter what they were thinking?

What they were imagining?

That's what got the whole population of the planet to the place where it was destroyed.

Second Corinthians 4:3:

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...”

— **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

If our Gospel is hid, it is hid to them that are lost.

In whom the god of this world has done what?

He has blinded what?

The minds of them which believe not.

Now, the Gospel has been preached some on this planet, hasn't it?

How is it that there are still millions upon millions unsaved?

How is that?

It's because there is an influence in this earth that is working to block these glorious thoughts in the words of the Gospel from the minds of those who so desperately need it.

The god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not:

“Lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

— **2 Corinthians 4:4**

Hallelujah.

Thank You, Lord.

When the Light Shines

Through the preaching and teaching of the Word, the Holy Spirit uses those words.

He uses those thoughts.

And if a person will open up their mind and heart to it, the light will shine.

Glory to God.

And they'll be enlightened to their lost condition, their need of Jesus, and the truth of the Gospel.

And if they'll receive Him, they'll be saved.

They'll be born again.

That's what happened to you.

That's what happened to me.

But there is something trying to prevent it.

There is darkness over the whole face of the planet.

There is a pervasive darkness that is just blocking the minds of millions.

And people see things and hear things, but they never saw it and they never heard it.

The truth is being preached.

Thank God, how much preaching is going on through TV now—TV and satellite, meetings and churches.

Not everything is being preached perfectly, but the basic message of the Gospel is going out in a big way.

So how is it that all of these people—some have heard it so many times—they despise it?

And when they come across the channel, they go:

“Oh, another preacher. Blankety-blank, blank. Change the channel.”

How are they still lost?

How did they not see what you saw when you heard it?

What I saw when I heard it.

How have they not seen it?

Their minds are blinded.

Blinded.

Somebody say, **“Blinded.”**

Blinded.

The Pervasiveness of Darkness

And that's why you can see that pervasiveness over the whole world in Noah's time.

Everywhere you would go, you could look at the people and they are scheming.

Everybody is scheming—how to get ahead, how to take this from this person, how to get this person's land or money, or take this person's wife or husband.

Get what they want.

Get ahead of this one.

They are scheming, lying, stealing, deceiving, murdering—whatever it takes.

And the whole planet was like that until God was just fed up with it.

He spoke judgment, and the whole thing was flooded.

Thoughts.

What Is Going to Make Heaven Heaven?

What is going to make heaven, heaven?

Soon we'll see and know.

I heard a man give a testimony. He died in a crash and was dead for some time.

And you've heard a number of these stories.

I'm surprised at how much they have in common—people from different ages, groups, and continents of the world.

And yet, how many of them have you heard say they saw this bright light and were just irresistibly drawn to the light?

Did you know who is light?

God is light.

And this one man described how he was taken to heaven, and he described some amazing things.

And he said he was there for a few minutes and was just awestruck with things.

But then he realized, **there's no heaviness here.**

There's no darkness because there is no sin.

It hit him.

He had never been in a place like that because this earth is heavy and dark, and everything has been tainted and affected by sin, the curse, and death.

Thoughts Are Real

And thoughts are real.

And when people are thinking wrong thoughts, it taints the very atmosphere.

You may not know everything that people are thinking, but it's real, and it affects the very environment around them—their houses and their places of work. We know more about this than we think. You come into a place and you'll just go:

“Wow, this is a great place. This is a fun place.”

What's happening?

There are beings of light in that place, thinking thoughts of God and speaking words of God, and it changes—it transforms—everything around it.

And you go to other places, and you've never even been there, and you just get off and walk in the door and go:

“Whoa, this place feels weird.”

And you don't even have to know. You could just look at people and look at their eyes, and you can tell they think perverted stuff all day and all night. And they put on a smile and go:

“Hi. May I help you?”

But it's unclean in the whole area.

Because these things are real.

They're real.

When it said in the passage that their thoughts and imaginations were only evil continually, you get one of the main definitions of the word *thought*.

It means **to weave, to fabricate**.

The word *thought* here means to weave, to fabricate.

The word *imagination* means to mold into a form, to squeeze into a shape.

What is a thought?

A thought is a shaper.

A thought is spirit substance that shapes.

You see the language in Romans, don't you?

Don't be conformed.

Don't be molded.

Don't be pressed into a cookie-cutter of ungodly sinner folks.

But instead, what?

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Why?

Because God's thoughts will shape you into something else.

Not ungodly.

Not worldly.

Something else.

Conformed into the image of the One who came and died for you.

More and More Like Jesus

So that more and more, every day of your life, every month of your life, every year of your life, more and more you think like Jesus.

You act like Him.

You talk like Him.

You respond like Him.

You pray like Him.

Come on, is this your desire now?

This is your calling.

This is your destiny.

You are destined, predestined, to become completely conformed into the image of the Holy One.

You are.

That's where you're headed.

And by the grace of God, you will get there.

You might not look and sound exactly like Him. Some folks might not look and sound thirty percent like Him, or three and a half percent like Him.

But He said you'll get there.

Jesus Himself is believing for you to get there.

And His faith works.

He prayed that we would get there.

Have you read John?

He prayed and believed and released faith that you and I would get there.

And we will.

We will.

You just got through reading 1 John.

The Bible said:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be...”

— **1 John 3:2**

But when we see Him, what are we going to see?

When we see the glorious Master coming with the clouds of glory, we will see Him, and the Bible said we will be like Him.

“...when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

— **1 John 3:2**

Because as He is, so are we.

Am I quoting Scripture, saints?

“...as he is, so are we in this world.”

— **1 John 4:17**

We're going to look up and go...

And He's going to say:

“I told you. I told you. You are like Me.”

And so, for the few days until we get out of here, we are to be what we are.

And not let the world tell us we're not.

And not let the ungodly world mold us and try to press us into what they are.

We're not what they are.

Say it out loud:

“I'm being transformed by the renewing of my mind.”

Oh, thank You, Lord.

Thank You, Lord.

A Thought Is a Shaper

What is a thought?

A thought is a shaper.

A thought is a spiritual form—a shaper.

We talked about this.

In fact, go to Jeremiah.

How about it?

Go to Jeremiah, and let's talk about this.

The words are used that describe this passage—the definitions of these words.

Thoughts Are Spiritual Substance That Shapes

In Jeremiah 18.

While you're going there, I'll read Isaiah 64:8. You're going to Jeremiah 18.

Isaiah 64:8 says:

“But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter;
and we all are the work of thy hand.”

This describes what thoughts do. It's exactly what a potter does with clay.

In the Potter's Hands

Jeremiah—you're holding your place there in the eighteenth chapter—verse 2.

Jeremiah 18:2, the Lord told the man of God:

“Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear
my words.”

Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

“And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so
he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD.

Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of
Israel.”

Hallelujah.

Have you ever seen a potter on TV, or some kind of video representation of a potter with some clay and the wheel is spinning?

Have you ever seen some of the vessels that some of these highly skilled artists can produce?

And yet, it started with a big clump of clay.

Now, this beautiful, ornate vase—or vase, depending on where you're from—where was that before it got on the shelf?

Somebody said, “It was in that big lump of clay.”

That was just clay.

Where was that vase?

It was in the thoughts of the potter.

God tells us that is exactly how we are with Him.

We Were in the Thoughts of God

How did we get here? Where did we come from?

People talk about the unanswerable questions of the universe. No, they're already answered in the Book.

Where did we come from?

We were in the thoughts of God.

He conceived us.

Not millions of duplications. Every one of us is as individual as can be.

He could have made us all carbon copies if He wanted to.

Every one of us was first a thought in Him.

Glory to God.

And now, here you are.

You see the picture of it so clearly with the first man.

Where was Adam before there was an Adam?

He was in God's thoughts.

And what did God do?

He reached out with His hands, and what He had in here, He made: arms, and legs, and noses, eyes, ears, intestines, lungs, knees.

He had all that in Him, and He made it.

Glory to God.

Before it was here, it was in Him.

And, of course, all of us have come from Adam and Eve, and so when He made them, He made all of us.

Because we were all in them.

The complexity of the billions on the planet was in Adam, the first man, when He made him.

That's why God didn't have to make another one, and two, and three, and five thousand, and five million.

Because the ten billionth one was in Adam when He made him.

Another Adam

But then Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sinned, and fell. So there needed to be another Adam. And He is the last Adam.

And when the Word was spoken, Mary conceived. She didn't conceive from a human father. She conceived from a Word which carried a thought from the Almighty.

The angel carried that Word that had the thought of God in it, and he brought it and gave it to Mary. And Mary didn't understand it, but she said:

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.”

And conception occurred in her.

The Word literally became flesh, and grew in her womb, and was born. And lived, and walked, and showed us how to live and be representative of God, and please God.

And went and paid the price.

And when He was raised from the dead—without going into all the Scriptures; I hope you know them—the Bible teaches us that we were raised.

Doesn't the Bible talk about, in Adam all die, and in Christ all are made alive?

Just like the billions were physically in Adam when God made him, all the redeemed throughout all the ages were in Christ when God raised Him from the dead.

He raised me.

He raised you.

He raised everybody that would ever believe on Him.

Glory to God.

The Incorruptible Seed

And the seed—the incorruptible seed of the Word of God—is in me.

And in you.

And that seed will produce after its own kind.

Glory to God.

Where are you in the Scriptures?

What is a thought?

A thought is a spiritual form that shapes.

Go to 2 Corinthians again, the third chapter, and I think maybe we can close with this.

Thoughts are spiritual substance that has the power to shape.

The Vase Was First in the Potter's Thoughts

Where was that vase?

What gave the potter the power, the knowledge, the ability, to shape that into the form?

He or she knows exactly what it's supposed to look like.

They can already see it when all you can see is a big lump of clay.

And we're not talking about—I know some people make little things that look goofy. I'm talking about an artist.

Some of these vases are centuries old, and you'd look at them and, just in our day of industry and machinery, think, *How in the world could you create something like that with the latest, greatest equipment and machinery?*

How did they make that?

It was in here, and it was in here.

And that thought was the spiritual shape and gave them the knowledge, the wisdom, the skill, to know exactly how light of a touch, how heavy of a touch, how fast the wheel should spin, exactly how to decorate it, or to paint it, or to put the gold leaf, or whatever, on it.

That was in here, but it got out here.

Why?

Because while that thing was turning and you're seeing clay, **they're seeing something else.**

And they just kept working until what they saw in here appeared here.

And what they're looking at here looked exactly like what they saw here when there was no vase.

God Is Shaping Us

And God tells us that is exactly what's going on between Him and us.

But He needs our cooperation as to how hard this is to take place, how long it takes for it to take place, how arduous and difficult it becomes.

Because there is another influencer.

There are thoughts that are not from God.

What are they?

They are also spirit shapers.

Thoughts Will Shape You

There are perverted works, books, movies, and things that will show you how to sin and how to be evil.

And if you think about it, what will it do?

It will work in you to shape you into that.

If you think on that junk night and day, it will cause you to begin to talk like it, use the same inflections, see things the same way, and approach things the same way.

What's happening?

It's shaping you. It's shaping you.

The devil wants to conform all of humanity to his wicked, perverted self. He wants to create the whole world in his likeness and image.

See, he has a god complex. He wants to be God. And he ain't God, and he never will be God, and he'll never get close. And he knows it, and his time is so short, and that's one reason why he's so mad. Because what he so wanted, **we get.**

It's happening for us.

God didn't make us angels or animals.

He made us to be conformed to His exact image.

Like Father, like son.

What the Father Sees

And when He looks at you and me now—see, the devil will try to get you to focus on your mistakes, your shortcomings, and your ignorance.

But do you understand? Your Father is looking at you through the righteousness of Jesus.

He sees you through that.

That's the only way we could ever approach the throne of God.

He's looking at us through that, and He's going to keep looking at us through that until we are formed into that.

We might look like a great big old wobbly lump of clay clumping around on the wheel, but you know what He sees?

He sees a priceless, one-of-a-kind vessel that is just like the Master Jesus.

And it doesn't matter if it takes ten years, a hundred years, or ten thousand years.

You're headed that way.

And He will keep looking at you.

Inasmuch as you'll yield to Him, He'll mold, and He'll shape, and He'll bring His thoughts into you.

And you'll think them, and things will change.

And it may not seem like much is happening all at once.

Then a great big old clump will fall off, and you'll get free, and you'll go, "Whoa! This is so much better!"

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is, There Is Liberty

Second Corinthians 3 describes it.

Second Corinthians 3:16:

“Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.”

Again, He talks about people's minds being blinded.

And then verse 17:

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

Now, this has been used and bantered about, and it is true. It's true.

But keep it in context.

What's He talking about when He says, “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty”?

He's talking about people being blind and then people being able to see.

He's talking about people being in darkness and then people having light.

And keep reading:

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image...”

Nothing covering our face.

“Beholding as in a glass,” or a mirror, “the glory of the Lord.”

Like, what do you see when you look in a mirror?

You see your own reflection.

When you look in your mirror at home, you see this flesh.

Maybe it makes you happy. Maybe it doesn't.

But this is what you see.

But when you look in **this mirror**, you see the exact image of Christ that you have been born again to be.

There are no pimples, or wrinkles, or sin, or junk, or perversity.

And you're looking at you because you are in Him, and He is in you.

Come on, are you listening, saints?

Enlighten the Eyes of Their Understanding

And as you behold this Book—you know, we talked about this earlier, about how so many folks have gotten away from the Word, and they talk about all kinds of things about God that are not really true and real.

Look in the Epistles at how Paul prayed for the people he ministered to.

Again and again, he's not pleading with God to do something for them.

I didn't say he never asked the Lord to do something for them.

But again and again, he's not asking God to do all the things that you would think.

Do you know what he says?

“Lord, enlighten the eyes of their understanding, that they may know what is the hope of Your calling, and what the riches of the glory of Your inheritance in the saints, and the exceeding greatness of Your power.”

What's he saying?

Help them to see what You've done for them, and what they are, and who they are.

Help them to see it and to realize it.

“Fill them with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”

That's the way he keeps praying for them.

Why?

Because everything that needs to be done has been done.

Jesus did it.

It's already done.

And we need to quit begging God to do stuff and realize what He's done and who we are.

And how are we going to be transformed?

Not by begging.

Not by pleading.

Not by breaking records, and making confessions, and fasting.

But by our minds being renewed.

Changed Into the Same Image

And as we behold, like in a mirror, the glory of the Lord, tell me what happens.

What happens?

Tell me what happens.

What happens to us?

“We are changed into”—what?

Into what we're looking at.

We're looking at Him, but we're looking at us. Because we are in Him, and He is in us.
How do we look at Him?

We've been looking at Him all night tonight. We think His thoughts. We hear His words.

We let Him tell us what He has said, what He has done, what He has thought. And while we're sitting and drinking in and thinking His thoughts, we begin to see Him.

We begin to see Jesus. And as we see Him, that's us.

And as we're beholding, what happens?

We are transformed.

We are changed into the same image. We are changed into the same image. It doesn't all happen overnight. It happens from glory to glory.

It happens progressively, and it happens by the Spirit of the Lord, who is bringing liberty in all these areas.



About Keith Moore

Keith Moore is a Christian minister, Bible teacher, and founder of Faith Life Church. Along with his wife, Phyllis, he has devoted his ministry to teaching the Word of God and helping believers grow in faith.

His teaching focuses on faith, healing, the Word of God, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and practical Christian living. Through his ministry and Bible teachings, Keith Moore encourages believers to trust God's Word, renew their minds, and live by faith.

*This message reflects one of his key teaching themes: **the thoughts we receive and meditate on can shape our lives**. It calls believers to fill their minds with God's Word and learn to recognize and embrace His thoughts.*

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