

# GROW

## AN SMBS SERIES

Lesson 7 – The Right Process: Be Renewed



Imagine a small town with a river that flows through it. The townspeople have built a dam to keep back the river and allow them to expand their village. The dam works well except every time it rains, the village is flooded since the dam isn't big enough to keep back all the water. Worse, the dam keeps getting weaker, and less rain is required making flooding more frequent. Desperate for help, the people of the village send for a civil engineer, who tells them if they ever want to be truly free of the threat of the river they need to reroute the path of the whole river. It will be far more difficult than building another dam, but the only truly effective method of saving the town. Similarly, cleaning ourselves after we've sinned and putting up guardrails to protect our hearts isn't enough if it's done alone (although it certainly needs to be done!). Beyond that, we need to change who we are, we need to redirect the river, and that only happens as we are continually renewed.

**RENEWAL GIVES YOU STRENGTH FOR \_\_\_\_\_**  
**2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18**

- 1. Renewal remains \_\_\_\_\_ in God's purpose (v 16a).**
- 2. Renewal requires constant \_\_\_\_\_ (v 16b).**

How quickly do our hearts drift? How soon before they forget the truths of God? How long does it take for sin to grab ahold of us and ruin us? Hebrews 3:12-13 gives us the answer: one day. The solution there as it is here is for a constant, daily vigilance over our spiritual lives.

- 3. Renewal focuses on the \_\_\_\_\_ (v 17).**

Perhaps at this point Paul is almost seeming to be insensitive. "Light momentary affliction?" Is that what you call my trial, Paul?! Well, while we do go through tough things during this life, things that cause

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us to “despair of life itself” (2 Corinthians 1:8), our reward will be far greater than any pain we fill on earth.

4. **Renewal prioritizes the \_\_\_\_\_ over the \_\_\_\_\_ (v 18).**  
God has showered us with incredible spiritual blessings, but it can be hard to live our lives as if those are the most important things about us. It is only through daily renewal, that we are able to live with our minds set on spiritual things.

**RENEWAL GIVES YOU STRENGTH FOR \_\_\_\_\_**

**COLOSSIANS 3:9-10; EPHESIANS 4:22-24**

1. **Renewal enables you to put off \_\_\_\_\_.**

Part of the putting off process involves seeing sin as it really is. Unfortunately, we tend to underestimate the consequences and severity of our sin. For this reason, the Bible describes our sins for us, pointing out ones we tend to skip over, and describes the seriousness of them in terms that at times surprises us.

2. **Renewal enables you to put on \_\_\_\_\_.**

So renewal helps you see your sin for what it is, but it also helps you to live holy by seeing your God as he is. Paul is very clear in Colossians 3:10 as to what exactly it is that renews believers: the knowledge of one’s Creator.

**RENEWAL GIVES YOU STRENGTH FOR \_\_\_\_\_**

**ROMANS 12:1-2**

1. **Renewal prevents sinful \_\_\_\_\_.**

Being conformed to the world can happen so easily and so quickly it should frighten us. We are living in a soup of twisted, backward, and wrong thinking, and yet we can be effected by it and not even see it.

2. **Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ our thinking.**

Worldliness is first and foremost when think like the world, for once we start thinking like the world we will start acting like and sounding like them. This is why Paul specifies that the renewal process takes place in our minds first, and only later will be seen in our actions.

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