

Monday 16th November George Powell
Ephesians 4:23-24 (NASB)

And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self...

Morning, everybody, welcome to this Monday devotion. I hope you're all well and that this week is finding you in a good place.

This morning, I just want to share a little bit of something that has been quite interesting. I hope in all that we do that we are honest with one another and today I'm going to be honest with you. I've been enjoying this season at the moment where God has really been turning up and just speaking to us so clearly about certain things, and our hearts have been enjoying His presence. And it's been wonderful to see how people have been engaging in things. And that that the heart of people who are stuck, their eyes are opening up and how God's been over the last few months, even in the pressures of what's going on with lockdown. There's something about God, there's something amazing about God that is, is happening in people's lives right now. There is something of His truth and His peace and His love, which is, and that's not in all cases I know, but there's a rest in everybody.

And I just want to speak to you about something that happened to me in this last couple of days. But first, I just want to read a scripture, it says this in Ephesians, it says, 'to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self, created to be like God, in true righteousness and holiness'. And I was just thinking about this scripture and the renewing of your mind, that's the heart's desire, that we have a renewed mind. And I want to testify a little bit about a journey that I've been on. It's interesting, I'm just going to speak from my heart this morning. So hopefully hear me and I can share how I feel God is speaking to me, and hopefully it will speak to you.

I was, as I say, just enjoying this season where God is speaking to us and loving on us. And His spirit is around, so strong and His presence is about, it's so thick it's just wonderful. And suddenly someone made a comment about me. And it was like, as if something had just grabbed hold of me, it was a comment completely innocent. There was no malice behind it, I don't even think the person knew what he said to me, but there was something said and suddenly something changed, there was a reaction in my heart. There was something of a complete, most people say orphan spirit if you like, there's something in me that suddenly from this identity that I've been walking in, that God had called me to, for such a time as this, that I was walking in my inheritance, that I was walking as a son, but suddenly this comment came and I'd say it was innocuous, it wasn't painful, coming from one point of view, but suddenly something hit my heart and bang, it wiped me out, is so wiped me out. And then I started to question my identity. I started to question Who am I in God? I was thinking this is strange, where has this come from? I don't even know what this is about, God. I am walking with you at the moment, I haven't done anything wrong, I'm not walking in sin at this moment. And yet, why is this comment, why has this statement had such an effect on me; had an effect on my very identity and who I was, I started questioning everything. And I don't know if you're like this or not, but I always question God, what am I about? What am I doing? What is this? What is that? And I go through this whole, the washing machine cycle of things spinning around in my head. And suddenly I realised that actually something in me had reacted to something that maybe I hadn't had a healed heart from and as we heard yesterday, Andrew was talking about how important the heart is, and what comes out of the heart and that's why it's so important that when we get dealing with stuff, when God is dealing with stuff inside of us, He's dealing with the heart. It's not just all about an intellectual exercise, although, you know, it's good to read scriptures. And it's not what God's interested in, God is interested in changing our hearts. And I got to this point, it surprised me. I'm being honest with you. It surprised me. And then I started going through this process thinking, wow, how can you react like this? How can you be like that? And I felt this condemnation come upon me. And it was like, all these things like coming at me and I'm thinking, what do I do with it? I can't even speak to anybody about this because it makes me look rubbish. I don't even know who I am and you know I might be the only one in the whole earth who has gone through this process and if so, that's great; but I just wanted to share with you this journey, it surprised me. It surprised me the power that someone's word had over me, of a part of my heart that perhaps wasn't healed.

And then I had to have a quick mind reset, I had to get to a place of actually resetting, what is God asking of me? Who am I in Christ? What's my identity? Come on, George, wake up, wake up, smell the roses smell what's going on. What is God saying to you? The process that I had to go through is into a place of getting back to Him. The whole point of my journey with God, the whole point is spending time with Him, being with Him. Jesus said about abiding in me, remaining in me. And it is so important because otherwise, these comments, these views, people's stuff that comes at you can affect you in the very identity you are, unless you are abiding in Him. I need to get back to being who God's called me to be. I need to get back to my godly identity, I need to get back to that place of knowing that I am a son. It doesn't matter what anybody else thinks of me. What is important to me this morning, is that God loves me for being who I am. And that in that process, in that dealing in my heart, I don't need to worry about what anybody else thinks of me. I don't need to worry about anything else that's going on, other than God loves me. The proof is in the pudding. He sent His Son to die for you. He sent His Son to die for me. That's how important I am to Him.

Condemnation, if there's anything about condemnation, that's not from God, wake up George, you feel condemned? That's not of God, where's that coming from? There's only one place, the accuser, the king of lies is coming and saying stuff to you to try and wipe you out. So we need to identify that very, very quickly, because otherwise, what happens is I start to dwell on the lies rather than on the truth. And if I start to dwell on the lies, what happens is, my life becomes, that's my, my line, if you like, that's where I am. My, what's the word I'm looking for? That's my equilibrium is in that process of thinking, well, if I believe those lies, then that's where the rest of my life goes from. I've got to get back to the truth. The truth is, I am a son. I've been called for such a time as this. I have to remember, as I keep saying about what's going on in this world at the moment, my four things, remember, five things, God is good. Where else do I need to go from that? God is good, He is good to me, He is good to you. He is good, full stop.

There's another thing we are so, so significant to Him, we are so, so important to Him, like I said, just now, the very reason that He sent His Son to die for you and for me, is that that's how important it is. And I have to get back to understanding instead of being hit by what lies are coming, what stuff's going on in my heart, which is probably an area that I need to deal with and I'm dealing with it; and that's the glorious thing about this, the process happens, and I become healed in that area of my heart. We are adopted into Christ. What an amazing thing. So what I want to get back to the truth, the truth is, if I understand fully who I am in Christ, all these things start to change; how I see them in my mind. So whatever's being said about you, to you, even in your heart, this was something I said to myself, I was thinking about myself, it wasn't something it was from an innocent comment. And what I realised is, well, there's something that has to be dealt with in my heart. Lord, please show me what it is. I need to get back to being who I am in You.

In Colossians, if I can just turn there quickly, I hope you're following me on this, I hope you're following me. It says this 'since then you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things'. Straight away, where's my focus when I start to focus on Christ? Straightaway it goes up to heaven, it's that I start to understand who I am in Him, that I am a son, that He died for me. That He set me free, that I can be all that He's called me to be. You go through Jeremiah, I said, I've called you. There's so much about His promises over each one watching this morning. Whatever you're doing, there is a calling and your life there is something of a promise of God and we have to get back to understanding that identity.

I need to get back to, it says in Romans, 'not conforming to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of my mind'. The renewing, getting back into what God is saying about me. What is God saying about you? He is praising over you, He is loving over you. He is wanting you to be close to Him and in heaven Jesus is interceding at the right hand of God for you. Can you imagine that? That's how important I am and you are to Him this morning. And so with what's going on, in everything that's happening in my life, and whatever challenges are coming at the moment, and maybe I was just tired, maybe things got to me and whatever else and I can excuse that. But what I found myself getting to a place of, was actually God wanting to deal with my heart, because He doesn't want me to ever live in that place of pain again. That He wants to come and He wants to come and heal my heart, so that I become all that I'm supposed to be. I'm no good to you if I'm not getting healed in my heart, I am just a clanging symbol, making a lot of noise. But

when God gets hold of me, when His love surrounds me, when His love comes over me, and I get changed by His love, I get changed by who I am in Him, then I become useful, then I become something that can bear fruit. When Jesus spent time with the Father, every opportunity He could, He spent time being with the Father, He went up in the cool of the night to spend time with the Father and His challenge to you and to me today is actually that's the best place to be, so that we can fully identify with who we are in Him. The devil is out there to destroy you. He's out there to wipe you out at any opportunity. And it's like, I guess that's part of what was interesting about this comment, I didn't even expect it. It wasn't like I was thinking or getting ready for something someone's been saying something which is bad for me. And clang, this was just completely left field. But God, in the process of this, He was doing something in me, He wants something of my heart to be healed. So that area, which may be like stone right now, can be melted, can be washed over, so it can be healed so that, I do not feel that way again.

I want to encourage you this morning, as we come to a close, I want to encourage you, if you find that time where sometimes people's comments, or it doesn't even matter about people's comments, because half the time it's what you say about yourself, that challenges you that you don't believe in yourself in a certain area, where you try and wipe yourself out in a certain area, we've got to get back to transforming our minds, getting back into Christ. Because that's where it's right, that's where the life comes. And if we want to be people of influence in our society, if we want to be a people of influence in our workplaces, in our schools, in our families in every place that we walk, then we need to get some of this stuff settled, we need to understand that it's not about what you think of me, it's about what He thinks of me.

And the thing is, because of what He thinks of me, that beautiful picture of the fact that He sent His Son to die for me, that's how important it is. And that's how much He thinks of me. So what you think of me doesn't really matter? I'm sorry. It's what God thinks of me. And I get into that place and there's a peace that I can rest in. There's just an understanding and even with what's going on right now with fear that's coming into this society at the moment with Coronavirus this and Brexit that and all those things and what does church look like? And all the questions that are buzzing around right now, please, please get back to that place of safety, get back to being in a place of remaining in Him, abide in Jesus abide in Him because that's the only answer for us. I just want to read that that scripture again, from Ephesians. 'Now it's time to be made new by every revelation that's been given to you. And to be transformed as we embrace the glorious Christ within as your new life. And live in union with Him for God has recreated you all over again, in perfect righteousness. And you now belong to Him in a realm of true holiness. So discard every dishonest lie, so that you will be known as one who always speaks the truth, for you all belong to one another'. That's where we need to be guys. That's where we need to stand, is in the truth. And that's what sets us free.

So I'm just going to pray. Father, we thank you for this morning, just want to pray a blessing over everyone who's watching this morning, everybody who comes into these devotions, and Lord, wherever we might be whatever we might be facing. When those words come, Father, that have an effect on our hearts, Lord I pray that we quickly deal with them. We quickly come to a place of: Father show me what it is that I need to change, because Father, I don't want to be out of fellowship with you in any way. And Lord, I pray that each of us will fully understand who we are in You, our identity in You Father, that actually you love us so, so much and that we can be sons and daughters of the most high King this morning. We can be sons and daughters of one who loves us so much, that Father wants to set us free. He's helping us in our journey walking together. So God be with everybody I pray this morning, I pray a blessing, ha, love abound over everyone this morning. Let Your kingdom come over everyone this morning. Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, in Jesus name', amen.

Bless you guys. Have a great day.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai> Ed Perrys

