

Renewed: Thinking Like Jesus

Recognizing the Battlefield

Series overview:

- Week 1 = Recognizing the Battlefield
- Week 2 = Replacing Lies with Truth
- Week 3 = Walking in Renewal

Series Big idea: Our lifelong walk with Christ is not behavior modification, but spiritual transformation; changed minds lead to changed lives.

Anchor Text: Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Big idea: Every day we are being influenced and formed by something; disciples of Jesus choose to be formed by the Word of God, the Spirit of God and the people of God.

Dominant thought: You cannot think like the world and live like Christ.

1. Be AWARE – The Reality of the War

Key truth: Recognize the reality of spiritual warfare without becoming fearful or obsessed with the enemy.

- Spiritual warfare is not primarily about dramatic confrontations with Satan, but about how Christians faithfully live, think, pray, and respond to spiritual opposition every day.
- Our battle is ultimately spiritual, not against people. (**Ephesians 6:12**)
- The enemy uses deception to distort God's truth. (**Genesis 3:1–6**)
- We must remain spiritually alert. (**1 Peter 5:8–9**)
- Be prepared – put on God's armor (**Ephesians 6:10-17**)
 - Daily spiritual readiness comes through dependence on Christ, truth, faith, and obedience.

Application: Spiritual warfare is not about living in fear of the enemy, but faithfully walking in the victory, strength, and protection we already have in Jesus Christ.

2. Be PREPARED – The Battlefield of the Mind

Key truth: Our thinking is a significant battleground in the process of spiritual transformation. Fallen reason must be rescued, renewed, and realigned to God's revealed truth.

- The world pressures us to conform to its patterns. (**Romans 12:2**)
 - Conformed (*syschēmatizō*, Strong's 4964); exterior alignment with a pattern, surface conformity.
- God transforms us through the renewing of our minds. (**Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:22–24**)
 - Transformed (*metamorphoō*, Strong's 3339); profound visible change that comes from an inward reality, never a mere external disguise.

Application: What thoughts or beliefs in my life need to be brought into alignment with God's Word? Identify one area where cultural/world values have subtly shaped your thinking: success, sexuality, identity, politics, money, relationships, comfort, etc.

3. Be FAITHFUL – Our Daily Response

Key thought: We respond to the battle by surrendering ourselves to God and trusting His truth.

- **Remember** your identity in Christ and live from Christ's victory. (**Colossians 2:13-15**)
 - **Recognize** thoughts and influences that contradict God's Word. (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**)
 - **Refocus** by standing firm against spiritual attacks using faith, Scripture, prayer and the body of Christ.
 - **Philippians 4:7** reminds us God's peace guards us.
 - The Greek word *phroureō* means "to guard or protect," conveying the image of soldiers guarding a city.
 - God's peace doesn't mean the battle has disappeared. It means we are not left defenseless in the middle of it.
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Take Away

Recognize the battle. Surrender your heart and mind to Christ. Trust His peace to guard you.

- **Simple prayer:** Lord, help me recognize the influences shaping my thinking. Reveal where I've believed something contrary to Your Word and renew my mind through Your truth.
 - **Daily practice of Remember, Recognize, Refocus.**
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Resources

Online Resource: Right Now Media <https://www.reallifeministries.com/post-falls/resources/right-now-media>

Studies and Books: Chip Ingram's *The Invisible War*, Craig Groeschel *Winning the War in Your Mind*

Christian Counseling: City on a Hill Behavioral Health Center (www.cityonahillcenter.com)

Real Life Ministries Counseling and Community Resource Guide

(<https://www.reallifeministries.com/Content/Counseling/ResourceGuideMar2026.pdf>)

Suicide awareness: The Irreplaceable Project (<https://www.reallifeministries.com/irreplaceable>)

(<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN8oK06I76d9Tjlulu-YgQao9wwRbAiKj>)

Focus on the Family – Alive to Thrive (<https://learn.alivetothrive.com/>)