

*So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. Ephesians 4:17-19 (NIV)*

## **Mind, Heart And Life**

**What have I done with your mind? How have I changed your thinking?** You have transformed my mind. You have changed all my thoughts. **How so?** Your word has been like a scrub brush in my mind. At one time, I was darkened in my understanding. I was futile in my thinking. I was living a sensual and impure life that continually lusted for more and more that was not pleasing in your sight. I was living for my own comfort and pleasure. My life was separated from the life that you wanted me to live. But you rescued me. You saved me. You helped me to turn my life over to you. You forgave and cleansed me of all my unrighteousness and put your Holy Spirit in me. **Yes, I did.** Your Holy Spirit has given me a hunger and thirst for you and your word. It is my delight to sit in your presence to be taught by you. As I consider your word and meditate on it day and night you are washing my mind. All the old garbage that was on my mind and in my thoughts is being replaced by new thoughts that you have given me to think. I believe that I am thinking your thoughts. **Yes, you do have a different mind.**

**What have I done with your heart? How have I changed your desires?** As you are transforming my mind you are also changing my heart. I once had an ignorant and hard heart. I was self-reliant, self-sufficient, self-absorbed and just plain selfish. I didn't think I wanted or needed anything from anyone. My life revolved around myself. I was the center of my own universe and my own god. No one could teach me anything. I thought that I knew it all. **How about now?** None of that is now true of me. I am relying on you and not on myself. I need all the help that I can get from whoever is kind enough to help me. I am living to serve you and others. I want to be used for your kingdom and your glory. I don't want or need credit for whatever you want to do in and through my life. I am not my own. I am yours to use however you see fit. I welcome you to use me. I don't know it all. It is my delight to sit at your feet to be taught by you. **Yes, you do have a different heart.**

**What have I done with your life? How have I changed your future?** In the past I had no hope. I was living just for all that this life had to offer. I had no meaning and purpose. I had no goals or plan. I was living a bruised, battered and broken life caused by my sin. I was being paid the wages of my sin, which is death. But, that all changed. With the transformed mind and the changed heart that you are giving to me comes new meaning and purpose. I do have a future and a hope. You are my future and my hope. **Yes, I am.** You have a purpose and plan for my life. You want me to serve you now and bear fruit for all eternity. **Yes, I do.** One day I will come to live with you forever in heaven. **Yes, you will.** You have made everything new for me. I have a new mind, heart, and life all because of what you have done, are doing and will do for me. **Yes, you do.**

*Lord, my mind was darkened in understanding. I did think thoughts that were futile. I was ignorant. I did have a hard heart. I was living a life separated from you. You rescued me. You saved me. Thank you for transforming my mind and changing my heart. Amen*

**Life** *Futility Of Their Thinking*

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

NIV Ephesians 4:17-19

**Life** *Their Minds Are Full Of Darkness*

With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

NLT Ephesians 4:17-19

**Life** *Futility Of Their Minds*

Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

NRSV Ephesians 4:17-19

**Life** *Futility Of Their Minds*

So this I say and solemnly testify in [the name of] the Lord [as in His presence], that you must no longer live as the heathen (the Gentiles) do in their perverseness [in the folly, vanity, and emptiness of their souls and the futility] of their minds. Their moral understanding is darkened and their reasoning is beclouded. [They are] alienated (estranged, self-banished) from the life of God [with no share in it; this is] because of the ignorance (the want of knowledge and perception, the willful blindness) that is deep-seated in them, due to their hardness of heart [to the insensitiveness of their moral nature]. In their spiritual apathy they have become callous and past feeling and reckless and have abandoned themselves [a prey] to unbridled sensuality, eager and greedy to indulge in every form of impurity [that their depraved desires may suggest and demand].

AMP Ephesians 4:17-19

**Life** *Futility Of Their Mind*

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

NASB Ephesians 4:17-19

**Life** *Futility Of Their Minds*

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

ESV Ephesians 4:17-19

**Life** *Futility Of Their Mind*

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

NKJV Ephesians 4:17-19

**Life** *Empty Headed, Mindless Crowd*

And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion.

MSG Ephesians 4:17-19

**Life** *Minds Against Him*

Let me say this, then, speaking for the Lord: Live no longer as the unsaved do, for they are blinded and confused. Their closed hearts are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds against him, and they cannot understand his ways. They don't care anymore about right and wrong and have given themselves over to impure ways. They stop at nothing, being driven by their evil minds and reckless lusts.

TLB Ephesians 4:17-19

**Life** *Their Thoughts Are Worth Nothing*

In the Lord's name, I tell you this. Do not continue living like those who do not believe. Their thoughts are worth nothing. They do not understand, and they know nothing, because they refuse to listen. So they cannot have the life that God gives. They have lost all feeling of shame, and they use their lives for doing evil. They continually want to do all kinds of evil.

NCV Ephesians 4:17-19

# Futility OF Their Thinking

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Life** – Ephesians 4:17-19

**In Context:** Read Ephesians 4

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God’s Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. Ephesians 4:17-19

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

So | I tell you this, | and | insist | on it | in the Lord, | that you | must | no longer live | as the | Gentiles do, | in the | futility | of their thinking. | They are | darkened | in their understanding | and | separated | from | the life | of God | because of | the ignorance | that is | in them | due to | the hardening | of their hearts. | Having lost | all sensitivity, | they have | given themselves | over to | sensuality | so as | to indulge in | every kind | of impurity, | with a | continual lust | for more. Ephesians 4:17-19

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, my mind was darkened in understanding. I did think thoughts that were futile. I was ignorant. I did have a hard heart. I was living a life separated from you. You rescued me. You saved me. Thank you for transforming my mind and changing my heart. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

**Why will what you think in your mind end up determining how you live your life?**

**How has God’s word been able to transform your mind and change your heart and guide your life?**

**How is your life being changed as God is transforming your mind and changing your heart with His word?**

What sin is no longer a part of your life because God is transforming your mind and changing your heart?

Why do you have no hope of living a Godly life apart from God transforming your mind and changing your heart?

How will living a life separate from God, that is engaged in dark and futile thinking, lead to a hardened heart?

When have you made a conscious decision to give yourself to God rather than to darkness, lust and impurity?

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow God’s word to transform your mind and change your heart so that you will not have a futile mind and hard heart.

**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that God will transform your mind and change your heart by His word working in and through your life.

**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God’s word is transforming your mind and changing your heart.

**Close With Prayer:** ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you allow God to use His word to transform your mind, change your heart and guide your life.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, use your word to transform my mind, change my heart and guide my life.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how do you want to transform my mind, change my heart and guide my life today?*

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