

Made for More Beliefs

We were made for a transformed life with a renewed mind and changed beliefs (Romans 12:2). We all have lenses, or belief systems, that shape how we see the world and how we live. Those beliefs often come from our life experiences, from our family history and what was said or modeled in our home, from significant hurt and trauma, or from what we have culturally or socially seen and embraced. When we have an experience, it leads to a belief; that belief creates an expectation, which influences behavior. When we begin to conform to the world, we develop ungodly beliefs that produce choices and actions with destructive consequences. God offers us an alternative: a *transformed* life where our minds are renewed and our beliefs align with the Bible and with the heart and character of God. We renew our minds by taking our thoughts captive and making them obedient to Jesus (2 Corinthians 10:5), by confessing our beliefs so that we may be healed (James 5:16), and by stepping into forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32).

GET THINGS STARTED

What did God stir in you this past week through the *Purify Workbook*? What did He show you about inner vows and willful, behavioral sins?

What distinct experiences have you had (good or bad) that have possibly shaped what you currently believe about God, about yourself, and/or about other people?

WATCH TESTIMONY VIDEO: WEEK 7

GO DEEPER

1. What encouraged or challenged you from Whitney and Holli's testimony video?
2. From Romans 12:2, what does it mean to be conformed to the world (or to the pattern of this world), and why should it be avoided? What are the common ungodly beliefs that our world proclaims and advertises? Why do we tend to continue in an ungodly belief even when it visibly robs us of life and joy?
3. How can we renew our minds and be transformed, from Romans 12:2? How do we *test* our beliefs or belief systems?
4. What does forgiveness have to do with a renewed mind and transformed life? What ungodly beliefs are often tied to unforgiveness?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What possible unhealthy or even destructive choices are you making that indicate an ungodly belief? What is that ungodly belief, where did it come from, and what is the truth that Jesus would have you embrace?
2. How well are you purposefully renewing your mind, saturating it with the Word of God and seeking to align it with His heart and character? What is possibly keeping you from more actively taking thoughts captive, walking in confession and repentance, and/or stepping into forgiveness?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, spend time in prayer together, asking God to reveal any ungodly beliefs you have embraced. Then ask Him to renew your mind, to bring your beliefs into alignment with His Kingdom, His Word, and His heart and character. Ask Him for the courage and strength to take your thoughts captive and to make them obedient to Jesus. Ask Him to empower you to actively practice confession and repentance, to extend forgiveness to those who have hurt you.

PURIFY WORKBOOK – FOR THIS WEEK

Session 7: Freedom from Fear