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Renewing, Training and Holding

- Romans 12:2 – <sup>2</sup> Do 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.
- The "pattern of this world" is what we will default to apart from Christ.
- To "be transformed" is not an event, but a process.
- When we commit to the discipline of Study, we "renew" our minds.




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Renewing, Training and Holding

- Philippians 4:8-9 – <sup>8</sup> Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.
- What you soak your mind in will ooze out of your words and actions.




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Renewing, Training and Holding

- John 8:31-32 – <sup>31</sup> Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- If we are to “hold to” Jesus’ teaching, it will help to study them!
- Studying the truth will bring freedom, not burden.
- Don’t forget that Jesus IS the truth!




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Understanding Study

- Studying is often placed opposite experience. We can make “knowing” and “feeling” enemies.
- “You may sing with gusto, pray in the Spirit, live as obediently as you know, even receive divine visions and revelations, and yet the tenor of your life remains unchanged. Why? Because you have never taken up one of the central ways God uses to change us: study.” (Foster)




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Understanding Study

- Study is different from meditation.
- “Meditation is devotional, study is analytical. Meditation will relish a word, study will explicate it. Although meditation and study often overlap, they constitute two distinct experiences. Study provides a certain framework within which meditation can successfully function.” (Foster)

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Understanding Study

- Study requires humility and submission.
- "Study demands humility. Study simply cannot happen until we are willing to be subject to the subject matter. We must submit to the system. We must come as student, not teacher. Arrogance and a teachable spirit are mutually exclusive." (Foster)
- If we utilize study merely to confirm the ideas and interpretations we already hold dear, then we will never grow or change in the process.




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Engaging Study

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- Scripture is useful for a variety of things: teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.
- All these uses point toward the goal of being "equipped for every good work" and not simply to attain the highest doctrinal purity.




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Engaging Study

• God uses the careful study of other things to compliment and expand on Scriptural study.

- Nature
- The Arts
- Relationships
- Cultural Celebrations
- Cultural Tragedies




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Closing Reflections

- What things in your life are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, or praiseworthy? How can you expand their influence on your mind?
- Block out 20-30 minutes this week to study Matthew 7:24-27.
- Pray that God will cultivate within your heart an attitude of submission and humility in regard to the practice of all forms of study.

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**Deeper Waters**  
*Changing Your Mind*

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