

THE MIND RENEWAL CODE

THE TURNING

Surrender, Repentance, and the Kingdom

The Mind Renewal Code | Lesson 1 | The Kingdom Codes Learning Portal

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Welcome to The Mind Renewal Code

Every Kingdom Code we have studied so far eventually comes back to the same place: the mind. Alignment requires agreement. Recovery requires new interpretations. Sonship requires that we learn to think like sons and daughters instead of servants. Again and again, we have seen that lasting change in the outside of life is connected to renewal on the inside.

The Mind Renewal Code takes us straight to that place. Over this series, we will learn how God renews the way we think, how renewed thinking reshapes the way we live, and how a renewed life comes to represent the King of kings in everyday places.

But the series does not begin with a technique for thinking better thoughts. It begins with a turning. Before Paul says, "be transformed by the renewing of your mind," he says, "present your bodies a living sacrifice." Before Jesus says, "believe in the gospel," He says, "Repent." Renewal begins when we stop defending the direction we chose and turn toward the King.

Core Idea

Mind renewal begins with offering ourselves to God. God's mercy comes first. Our surrender is the response. Repentance turns us toward His reign, and renewal reshapes the patterns of thinking and living we carry into that new direction.

A NEW DIRECTION BEGINS WHEN I STOP DEFENDING THE OLD ONE.

MIND RENEWAL BEGINS WITH A SURRENDERED LIFE.

KEY TEXTS

Romans 12:1-2

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Paul begins with God's mercy, calls us to present our bodies, and then speaks of renewing our minds. The order matters.

Mark 1:14-15

"Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.'"

Jesus announces that God's Kingdom has drawn near and calls us to turn and trust.

Isaiah 55:6-7

"Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

Repentance reaches both our ways and our thoughts, and it is met by abundant pardon.

Luke 15:20

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."

The returning son discovers that his father's compassion is greater than he expected.

Romans 2:4

"Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"

God's kindness does not excuse sin. It draws us out of it.

2 Corinthians 7:10

"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."

Not every tear produces change. Godly sorrow turns us toward God.

Acts 26:20

"...that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."

A real turning eventually becomes visible.

GOD'S MERCY GIVES US THE FOUNDATION. SURRENDER AND REPENTANCE EXPRESS OUR RESPONSE.

1. THE REVELATION

You can change your location and keep your direction.

Have you ever missed a turn while following directions? You can be sincere, confident, and moving quickly, and still be heading the wrong way. Speed does not fix direction. Sincerity does not fix direction. Neither does effort. In fact, the faster you drive in the wrong direction, the farther you get from where you meant to go.

When you finally recognize the mistake, you have a decision to make. You can defend the road you chose, or you can turn around. Admitting the mistake matters, but admitting it is not the same as turning. Only the turn

starts taking you toward the destination.

Personal story (optional): Tell a time you missed a turn, such as a wrong exit or the GPS saying "recalculating" while you were sure you were right. Land it on the moment you had to choose: defend the road or turn around.

Many of us live this way spiritually. We ask God to change our circumstances while He is asking us to surrender our direction.

• We want peace, but we keep rehearsing resentment.

• We want stronger relationships, but we keep defending our pride.

• We want God's guidance, but we have already decided which answers we will accept.

• We want a renewed mind, but we keep feeding the thoughts that hold the old one in place.

We cannot keep the same direction and expect to arrive somewhere new. The invitation of Jesus is to turn toward Him and learn His ways.

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR LOCATION AND KEEP YOUR DIRECTION.

REAL CHANGE BEGINS WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR DIRECTION.

2. THE CODE

Mind renewal is not a single moment. It is a Kingdom Operating System, a way God works in us over time. This lesson gives us its opening sequence:

MERCY -> SURRENDER -> REPENTANCE -> RENEWAL -> OBEDIENCE

1. **Mercy:** God moves first. Through Christ, He has already shown us mercy.

2. **Surrender:** We respond by presenting our whole lives to Him.

3. **Repentance:** We turn from the patterns that resist His reign and turn toward the King.

4. **Renewal:** Holy Spirit and the Word reshape how we think, interpret, and desire.

5. **Obedience:** The renewed mind becomes visible in renewed choices.

This sequence fits inside the larger Kingdom Codes pathway we have been walking: Revelation -> Application -> Transformation -> Maturity -> Representation. The Turning is where revelation stops being information and starts becoming application. Something God has shown us finally gets a response.

Notice that mercy is at the beginning, not the end. We do not surrender in order to earn mercy. We surrender because we have received it.

REPENTANCE TURNS US TOWARD THE KING. RENEWAL FORMS US IN HIS WAYS. OBEDIENCE EXPRESSES HIS REIGN.

3. MERCY COMES FIRST

Romans 12:1 opens with the word "therefore." Whenever Scripture says "therefore," it is pointing back to what came before. In Romans 1-11, Paul has laid out the gospel: all have sinned, God justifies the ungodly through faith in Christ, nothing can separate us from His love, and His mercy reaches both Jew and Gentile. Romans 11 ends in worship: "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:36).

Only then does Paul say, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God."

That order guards us from two errors.

The first error is trying to renew our minds in order to make God accept us. That turns renewal into a performance, and performance always produces either pride or exhaustion.

The second error is receiving God's mercy and never letting it change us. That treats grace as a pardon with no relationship attached.

Paul's order is different. Mercy is the foundation. Surrender is the fitting response. Renewal is the fruit.

WE DO NOT SURRENDER TO EARN MERCY. WE SURRENDER BECAUSE WE HAVE RECEIVED IT.

4. MIND RENEWAL BEGINS WITH SURRENDER

Before Paul speaks about renewing our minds, he calls us to present our bodies to God. That may seem like an odd place to start a teaching on the mind, but it is intentional.

Through our bodies, we speak, work, serve, listen, and respond. The body is where our thoughts become actions. Presenting our bodies means surrendering the everyday activities through which our inner life becomes visible.

- **My mouth:** What will I say?
- **My eyes:** What will I give my attention to?
- **My ears:** What will I repeatedly listen to?
- **My hands:** What will I do?
- **My feet:** Where will I go?
- **My time and energy:** What will I serve?

Most of us are willing to give God our Sunday morning. Surrender asks for Monday afternoon, the drive home, the phone in our hand at night, the conversation with a difficult coworker, and the way we handle money when nobody is watching.

A simple prayer captures it: "Lord, I offer You the life through which my thoughts become visible."

THE STARTING POSTURE OF MIND RENEWAL IS A SURRENDERED LIFE.

5. A LIVING SACRIFICE IS AN ONGOING OFFERING

In the Old Testament, a sacrifice was offered once. Paul calls us to something different: a living sacrifice. We keep living, but our lives now belong to God.

Someone once observed that the trouble with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar. That is honest. Surrender is not a single decision we made years ago. It is a posture we return to in ordinary moments:

• When I am offended, will I surrender my response?

• When I am corrected, will I surrender my defensiveness?

• When I am tempted, will I surrender what I want to do?

• When obedience costs me something, will I remain available to God?

None of those moments feels dramatic. Each one is a small altar. Each one asks, "Who governs my next response?"

SURRENDER BECOMES REAL WHEN GOD'S WILL GOVERNS MY NEXT RESPONSE.

6. THE BODY AND THE MIND WORK TOGETHER

Our thoughts influence our actions. Our repeated actions also reinforce our patterns of thinking. The body and the mind are not separate projects. They train each other.

Think about the drive home after an argument. You replay what they said. You rehearse what you should have said. You imagine the next round. By the time you pull into the driveway, the offense feels bigger than when it happened. Nothing new occurred. You simply practiced resentment for twenty minutes.

Now imagine that same drive spent pausing, praying, and asking, "Lord, how do You want me to respond?" The same twenty minutes can deepen resentment or practice the way of Jesus. The road is the same. The direction is different.

Paul holds these together. Offer your embodied life to God, and allow your understanding to be transformed.

John Chrysostom, preaching on Romans 12:1 in the fourth century, made the same connection: "Let the eye look upon no evil thing, and it has become a sacrifice; let your tongue speak nothing filthy, and it has become an offering; let your hand do no lawless deed, and it has become a whole burnt offering." Bodily surrender becomes concrete through daily conduct.

Source: John Chrysostom, Homily 20 on Romans. https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/210220.htm

WHAT I REPEATEDLY PRACTICE, I EVENTUALLY BELIEVE MORE DEEPLY.

7. THIS IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE

The NKJV calls this offering our "reasonable service." Other translations render the same phrase "spiritual worship." Paul's Greek phrase, logikē latreia, carries both ideas. Logikē is related to our word "logical"; it describes what is fitting, thoughtful, and rational. Latreia is the word for priestly service and worship.

In other words, when we consider the mercy God has shown us, offering Him our whole lives is not extreme. It is the sensible response. It is worship that engages the mind and is expressed through the whole person.

This also means worship is bigger than a song. We worship through how we conduct business, how we treat our families, how we respond under pressure, and how we use our bodies.

WORSHIP CONTINUES WHEN THE SONG ENDS AND THE SURRENDERED LIFE BEGINS.

8. DO NOT BE CONFORMED, BUT BE TRANSFORMED

Romans 12:2 sets two kinds of change side by side.

"Do not be conformed to this world." The word Paul uses carries the idea of being pressed into a pattern or mold. Conformity usually happens without our permission. We absorb the assumptions, fears, appetites, and reactions of the culture around us until they feel normal. Nobody has to force us. We simply stop resisting the mold.

"But be transformed." This is the Greek word metamorphoō, the same word used when Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John (Matthew 17:2), and the same word Paul uses for believers "being transformed into the same image from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18). Conformity presses us from the outside. Transformation works from the inside out.

Then Paul gives the purpose: "that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." To "prove" means to test and approve, to discover by experience. A renewed mind does not only know God's will in theory. It learns to recognize His will and walk in it.

Conformed	Transformed
Pressed into shape from the outside	Changed from the inside out
Happens by default	Happens by surrender
Shaped by the patterns of this age	Shaped by the mind of Christ
Reacts	Discerns and responds

IF YOU DO NOT CHOOSE YOUR TRANSFORMATION, THE WORLD WILL CHOOSE YOUR CONFORMITY.

9. REPENTANCE IS A RESPONSE TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE KING

Jesus' first public message is short: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

"The time is fulfilled" means the moment God promised through the prophets has arrived. The waiting is over. The King is here. That is why repentance cannot be postponed until a more convenient season. When the King draws near, the right response is to turn now.

The Kingdom is the reign of God: His authority, His will, and His restoring work. As we have learned in earlier lessons, the Kingdom of God speaks to that reign established within us, while the Kingdom of Heaven is expressed outwardly through us. Repentance is where that inner reign begins to take ground.

To receive the King is to receive His right to govern our lives. We cannot meaningfully pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done" (Matthew 6:10), while continually insisting, "My will must prevail."

REPENTANCE IS SURRENDERING MY RESISTANCE TO THE REIGN OF GOD.

10. REPENTANCE CONFRONTS THE EXPLANATIONS THAT PROTECT SIN

Sometimes the greatest obstacle to repentance is not the sin itself. It is the explanation we use to defend it.

- "Because they hurt me, I have the right to retaliate."
- "If I admit I was wrong, I will lose my authority."
- "My needs justify my dishonesty."

- "That is just how I am."
- "Everybody does it."

These explanations work like guards posted at the door of a pattern. As long as they stand, the pattern stays protected. Repentance confronts the guards. It brings our decisions, our desires, and our explanations under the authority of Jesus.

Jesus asked a piercing question: "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Calling Him Lord means He has the final word.

Illustration: The Approved Plan

Personal story (optional): If this comes from your own shop, tell it as your story: a specific time a piece was built off-plan and didn't fit, what it cost, and what it took to make it right.

In a cabinet shop, the approved plan governs the work. If every craftsman builds according to personal preference, the pieces may look impressive on their own and still fail to fit together when it is time to install. Skill is valuable, but skill that ignores the plan creates expensive problems.

A skilled craftsman submits his work to the plan. In discipleship, Jesus governs both the destination and the way we get there. He is not a consultant we hire for advice we may or may not take. He is the King.

I CANNOT FOLLOW JESUS WHILE RESERVING THE RIGHT TO OVERRULE HIM.

11. REPENTANCE AND RENEWAL WORK TOGETHER

Two Greek words help us see how this code operates.

The New Testament word translated "repentance" is metanoia. It describes a change of mind and purpose. In the biblical call to repentance, that change includes turning from sin toward God.

The word translated "renewing" in Romans 12:2 is anakainōsis, which means renewal or renovation. It is the language of making something new again.

Source: Bible Hub, Strong's Greek 3341 (metanoia). https://biblehub.com/greek/3341.htm

Source: Bible Hub, Strong's Greek 342 (anakainōsis). https://biblehub.com/greek/342.htm

These are different words describing closely connected realities. Repentance is the turn. Renewal is the renovation that follows. When you buy an old house, you change ownership in a single moment, but renovating it takes time, room by room. Repentance hands God the keys. Renewal is Him working through the rooms.

That is why repentance is not only for the first day of the Christian life. We turn toward God, and as He exposes another area of resistance, we repent again and continue being renewed.

Isaiah 55: Ways and Thoughts

Isaiah 55:7 connects three movements: forsaking wicked ways, forsaking unrighteous thoughts, and returning to the LORD. Then God says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways" (Isaiah 55:8). Repentance is not only about changing behavior. It is about trading our thoughts for His.

Three Areas of Change

• **The mind:** "I acknowledge that my understanding needs correction."

• **The heart:** "I surrender the desire or loyalty that keeps me attached to sin."

• **The life:** "I begin responding differently."

A person may sincerely follow Jesus while still carrying learned patterns of defensiveness, resentment, or fear. Those patterns are not proof that the turning was fake. They are the next rooms God wants to renovate.

REPENTANCE CHANGES MY DIRECTION. RENEWAL CHANGES THE PATTERNS I CARRY INTO THAT DIRECTION.

12. THE PRODIGAL SON SHOWS US THE MOVEMENT OF REPENTANCE

Jesus gives us a story in which we can watch the turning happen. In Luke 15:11-24, a younger son demands his inheritance, leaves home, and wastes everything he received. When famine comes, he ends up feeding pigs, longing to eat what the pigs are eating. His return unfolds through five movements.

A. Recognition: He Came to Himself

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!'" (Luke 15:17)

He begins seeing his condition honestly. He remembers the provision available in his father's house. The life he chose has failed to produce the freedom he expected.

Repentance begins when I become willing to tell the truth about where I am. Ask yourself:

• What is my current pattern producing?

• What have I been excusing?

• Where am I resisting the Father?

B. Confession: He Acknowledged His Sin

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.'" (Luke 15:18)

His confession accepts responsibility. He does not build his return around blaming the famine, the far country, or everyone else's contribution to his failure.

Confession names what self-justification keeps trying to rename. That is why specific confession is so powerful:

• "Father, I have held onto resentment."

• "Father, I have been dishonest."

• "Father, I have used anger to control people."

Vague confession tends to produce vague change. Specific confession makes room for specific obedience. And we confess with confidence: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

C. Decision: He Resolved to Return

"I will arise and go." Recognition becomes a decision. He forms a new intention. Many people stop at recognition. They see the problem clearly and still stay in the far country. The turning requires a decision.

D. Movement: He Arose and Came

"And he arose and came to his father." (Luke 15:20)

He gets up and goes. His body begins expressing the change taking place within him. This connects directly to Romans 12:1-2: his change of mind becomes visible through movement.

Acts 26:20 describes repentance as turning to God and doing "works befitting repentance." Those works do not purchase forgiveness. They express the reality of the turning.

E. Reception: The Father Welcomed Him

"But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).

Notice what happens next. The son had rehearsed his speech: "I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants" (Luke 15:19). When he arrives, he begins the confession, but he never reaches the hired-servant line (Luke 15:21). The father interrupts him.

"Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet." (Luke 15:22)

The robe restores honor. The ring restores belonging and family authority. The sandals mark him as a son, not a servant; servants went barefoot.

In that culture, a dignified older man did not run in public. To run, he would have had to gather up his robe and accept the embarrassment. The father takes on the shame so the son can come home.

The son came hoping to be hired as a servant. The father restored him as a son. "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (Luke 15:24). Here the Mind Renewal Code meets the Sonship Code. The son's thinking had to be renewed from a servant's mindset to a son's identity, and that renewal began with the father's embrace.

THE RETURNING SON DISCOVERS THAT HIS FATHER'S COMPASSION IS GREATER THAN HE EXPECTED.

13. THE OLDER BROTHER: FAR FROM HOME WITHOUT LEAVING

Jesus does not end the story when the younger son comes home. He continues with the older brother in Luke 15:25-32, and that part of the story matters just as much for a lesson on the turning.

The older brother comes in from the field, hears music and dancing, and learns that his father is celebrating his brother's return. Luke tells us, "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him" (Luke 15:28).

Listen to how the older brother explains himself: "Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time" (Luke 15:29). He had stayed home. He had worked hard. He had kept the rules. But his words reveal that he thought of himself as a servant earning a reward, not a son sharing his father's heart. He even refers to his brother as "this son of yours" (Luke 15:30), refusing to call him "my brother."

The father's reply is tender: "Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found" (Luke 15:31-32).

Here is the point. The younger son was far from his father in a distant country. The older son was far from his father while standing on the family property. One needed to turn from rebellion. The other needed to turn from resentment and self-righteousness. Both needed repentance. Both were invited in.

Jesus told this parable to Pharisees and scribes who complained that He received sinners (Luke 15:1-2). The story leaves the older brother outside the party, with the father's invitation still hanging in the air. Jesus leaves the ending open so each listener has to ask, "Will I go in?"

The younger son	The older son
Left home	Stayed home
Rebelled openly	Resented quietly
Thought he could only be a servant	Lived like he was only a servant
Needed to turn from sin	Needed to turn from self-righteousness
The father ran to him	The father came out to him

Some of us read this lesson and think of the people who need to repent. The older brother reminds us that we may need to turn too. Faithful church members can carry resentment, comparison, and a hidden belief that God owes them. That is also a pattern the King wants to renovate.

YOU CAN BE FAR FROM THE FATHER'S HEART WHILE NEVER LEAVING THE FATHER'S HOUSE.

14. GOD'S MERCY GIVES US COURAGE TO TURN

Shame says, "Stay where you are. You have gone too far. You will not be welcomed." Shame keeps people in the far country long after they know they need to come home.

Romans 2:4 answers shame: "the goodness of God leads you to repentance." God's kindness is not permission to stay. It is an invitation to return. And Romans 12 begins its appeal with "the mercies of God." Because God has shown us mercy through Christ, we can come honestly before Him and offer ourselves to Him.

BECAUSE GOD HAS SHOWN ME MERCY, I CAN STOP HIDING AND START SURRENDERING.

15. GODLY SORROW AND WORLDLY SORROW

Sorrow can open the door to repentance. A person may grieve being exposed, losing a relationship, experiencing consequences, or disappointing others. Those feelings can become an opening. The question is whether the sorrow turns us toward God.

Paul draws the line clearly: "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Worldly Sorrow	Godly Sorrow
Grieves the consequences	Grieves the sin
Focuses on what I lost	Focuses on whom I wronged
Seeks relief	Seeks restoration
Hides, blames, or despairs	Confesses and turns toward God
Leaves the pattern in place	Produces real change

Both kinds of sorrow can produce tears. Only one produces change.

AM I WILLING TO SURRENDER THE BEHAVIOR, OR DO I ONLY WANT RELIEF FROM ITS CONSEQUENCES?

A Voice from the Early Church

Preaching on Romans 12:2, Chrysostom compared renewal to repairing a house as it wears down, and he spoke directly to people who had failed: "Have you sinned today? Have you made your soul old? Despair not, despond not, but renew it by repentance, and tears, and confession, and by doing of good things."

Source: John Chrysostom, Homily 20 on Romans. https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/210220.htm

If God exposes something today, respond today. Confess it. Receive His mercy. Begin walking differently by His grace.

16. THE TURNING PATHWAY

The body we present to God must now express the surrender we profess. Our mouths, hands, habits, time, relationships, and decisions all become part of our response. Here is a simple pattern for putting the turning into practice:

RECOGNIZE -> CONFESS -> TURN -> PRACTICE

1. **Recognize:** Ask Holy Spirit to show you one pattern that resists God.

2. **Confess:** Name it honestly and specifically.

3. **Turn:** Decide on a different direction.

4. **Practice:** Take one concrete step, and repeat it.

Pattern God exposes	Confession	A practical step
Retaliation	"I have been feeding resentment."	Stop rehearsing revenge; pray for the person and choose a faithful response
Dishonesty	"I have protected myself through deception."	Correct the false statement and accept responsibility
Pride	"I have resisted correction."	Listen, acknowledge the truth, and make the needed change
Harsh speech	"I have wounded people with my words."	Apologize specifically and practice a patient response

Pattern God exposes	Confession	A practical step
Neglect of God	"I have continually postponed attention to You."	Set a daily time to read, pray, and obey

The first faithful step may be small. It needs to be real.

OBEDIENCE GIVES REPENTANCE A PLACE TO STAND.

17. WHEN THE OLD PATTERN RETURNS

Turning toward God does not mean the old pattern never shows up again. The old thought will knock. The old reaction will feel familiar. That does not mean your repentance failed. It means renewal is still in progress.

When the old pattern returns:

• **Notice it without panic:** "There is the old direction again."

• **Return to the altar:** "Lord, I present this moment to You."

• **Remember the truth:** "I am not who I was. I am a son or daughter being renewed."

• Choose the faithful response again, even if it is small.

"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). New mercy every morning means a new opportunity to turn every morning.

A SETBACK IS NOT A STOPPING POINT. IT IS ANOTHER INVITATION TO TURN.

18. THE TURNING IS NOT MEANT TO BE WALKED ALONE

The pattern God exposes often grew in hiding, and it tends to survive in hiding. That is why God places us in a family of believers.

James 5:16 says, "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed." We confess to God for forgiveness. We often confess to trusted believers for healing, support, and strength.

Proverbs 28:13 puts it plainly: "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." Covering keeps the pattern protected. Confessing brings it into the light, where it loses much of its power.

Hebrews 3:13 adds the reason we need each other: "but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Sin is deceitful. It tells us that we are the

exception, that nobody would understand, and that we can handle it ourselves. Honest relationships help us hear the truth when our own thinking is clouded.

This does not mean telling everyone everything. Wisdom matters. Look for one or two mature believers who are trustworthy, who will keep confidence, and who will point you to Jesus rather than to shame. Then let them in.

• **Ask:** "Will you pray with me about this pattern?"

• **Ask:** "Will you check in with me this week?"

• **Ask:** "Will you tell me the truth if you see the old direction returning?"

The prodigal did not turn and then stay alone. He came home to a household. Repentance turns us toward the Father, and the Father places us among His family.

WHAT GROWS IN HIDING OFTEN HEALS IN THE LIGHT.

CHRIST AT THE CENTER

We are not renewing our minds to become our own saviors. The turning is toward a Person. Jesus is the King whose arrival calls for repentance, the Savior whose sacrifice makes our return possible, and the Father's open arms made visible.

Some reading this lesson have never turned to Christ at all. Jesus' first call is for you: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). The gospel is the good news "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

You do not clean yourself up before you come. Like the son in the story, you come as you are, and the Father runs to meet you. Turn from your sin. Trust Jesus as your Savior and receive Him as your King. If you are ready to take that step, pray honestly and tell Him so, then tell a pastor or a trusted believer so they can walk with you.

THE TURNING IS NOT TOWARD A NEW SET OF RULES. IT IS TOWARD THE KING.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Many people want a renewed mind without a surrendered life. They want new thoughts while keeping the old direction. But the Mind Renewal Code does not work that way. Renewal grows in surrendered ground.

Everything else in this series, learning to see as Jesus sees, practicing His ways, and representing Him in daily life, is built on this first turning. If we skip it, renewal becomes self-improvement. If we embrace it, renewal

becomes transformation.

RENEWAL GROWS IN SURRENDERED GROUND.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Use this seven-day practice to put the Turning into motion:

1. **Day 1:** Read Romans 12:1-2 slowly. Begin the day by offering God your mouth, eyes, ears, hands, feet, time, and energy.

2. **Day 2:** Ask Holy Spirit, "What pattern in my life resists You?" Write down the first honest answer.

3. **Day 3:** Write down the explanation you have used to protect that pattern. Then write what Jesus says instead.

4. **Day 4:** Confess it specifically to God. If it is appropriate, confess it to a trusted believer as well (James 5:16).

5. **Day 5:** Read Luke 15:11-32. Notice where you see yourself in the five movements, and in the older brother.

6. **Day 6:** Take one concrete step of obedience from the Turning Pathway table.

7. **Day 7:** Review the week. When the old pattern returned, how did you respond? Thank God for every small turn.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What part of my daily life have I kept outside my surrender to God?

2. Where have I asked Jesus to help me while resisting His instruction?

3. What explanation have I used to protect a pattern God wants to change?

4. Is my sorrow over sin turning me toward God, or only toward relief?

5. Which of the five movements of the prodigal son do I most need right now?

6. Do I see God as a Father who runs toward me, or as a master who keeps me at a distance?

7. Am I more like the younger son or the older son right now?

8. Who is one trusted believer I can invite to pray with me about the pattern God has exposed?

ONE QUESTION

Where am I still defending the direction I chose instead of turning toward the King?

ONE ACTION STEP

Identify one pattern God has exposed. Confess it specifically today, and take one concrete step of obedience in the opposite direction within the next 24 hours.

DECLARATION

By the mercies of God, I present my life to Him.

My body is a living sacrifice. My mouth, my eyes, my ears, my hands, my feet, my time, and my energy belong to the King of kings.

I will not be conformed to this world. I am being transformed by the renewing of my mind.

I surrender my resistance to the reign of God. I will not defend the direction He is calling me to leave.

I confess specifically, and I receive His mercy fully.

I am not a hired servant. I am a son or daughter welcomed home.

When the old pattern returns, I will turn again, because His mercies are new every morning.

Jesus Christ is my center, Scripture is my foundation, and Holy Spirit is my guide.

I am moving from revelation to representation.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your mercy through Jesus Christ.

Today I present myself to You: my body, my mind, my desires, and my daily life. I surrender my mouth, my eyes, my ears, my hands, and my feet. Teach me to use my time and energy in ways that honor You.

Show me where my thoughts and actions resist Your will. Give me grace to confess my sin and courage to turn toward You.

Renew my understanding through Your Word. Form my desires through Your Spirit. Help me practice what You reveal.

May Your Kingdom govern my responses, my relationships, and my everyday decisions.

In Jesus' name, amen.

YOUR NEXT STEP

The Turning sets our direction. In the lessons ahead, we will learn how God renews the way we see, how renewed thinking becomes renewed practice, and how a renewed mind comes to represent Jesus in everyday life.

A TURNED LIFE IS READY TO BE A RENEWED LIFE.

[NEXT LESSON: THE MIND RENEWAL CODE, LESSON 2]

RELATED CODES

THE CODE OF ALIGNMENT

Learn how agreement creates direction.

[EXPLORE]

WHAT IS BIBLICAL SONSHIP?

Move from a servant's mindset to a son's identity.

[EXPLORE]

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Learn to think from who God says you are.

[EXPLORE]

WHY WE GET STUCK

Recognize the agreements that sustain old patterns.

[EXPLORE]

WHAT KEEPS RECURRING CAN BE RESTRUCTURED

Rebuild the systems that keep producing the same results.

[EXPLORE]

TAKE HOME POINT

MIND RENEWAL BEGINS WITH A SURRENDERED LIFE.

God's mercy comes first. Surrender is the response.

Repentance turns you toward the King. Renewal forms you in His ways. Obedience expresses His reign.

MERCY -> SURRENDER -> REPENTANCE -> RENEWAL -> OBEDIENCE

You do not need to fix everything today.

Recognize one pattern. Confess it. Turn. Take one real step.

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR LOCATION AND KEEP YOUR DIRECTION.

WHICH DIRECTION ARE YOU FACING?

Discover the Kingdom Code you need.

Apply it. Move forward.

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