

Just a trim

Traci and Don Rich, owners of Analog Barbershop on Sixth St., offer a cut to South Lane Fire and Rescue Division Chief Joe Raade during a ribbon-cutting to commemorate their Chamber of Commerce membership. It was a busy week for the Chamber of Commerce Greeters, who cut a ribbon at the new Tax Advantage location on Fifth Street on Tuesday and held another ribbon-cutting at the new helipad of Life Flight, the air medical service company that brought its headquarters to Cottage Grove last year.



photo by Rhonda Worley

JOYCE

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something good always comes when we think according to God’s plan for our life.

The key to transformation

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus offers us a new way of living; however, a new way of thinking will always precede this new way of living. Right thinking and right attitudes are roadmaps that allow us to reach our destination.

Romans 12:2 says, “Do not be conformed to this world (this age), (fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs). But be transformed (changed) by the (entire) renewal of your mind (by its new ideals and its new attitude), so that you may prove (for yourselves) what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God...”

This Scripture is so important for us to understand! God has a good, acceptable, and perfect plan for you and me, and the

way we can experience it is not to think like the world thinks, but to be changed entirely by learning to renew our mind and think the way God thinks. If you want to have what God wants you to have, learn to think like God thinks!

Ephesians 4:22-23 is one of my favorite groups of scriptures in the Bible. Verse 22 says to “strip yourselves of your former nature.” Then verse 24 tells us to “put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God’s image.”

How do we do that? Verse 23 gives us the key: “And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude].”

So, the way to “put off” your old life and “put on” the new is to constantly renew your mind and attitude. It begins with filling our minds with God’s Word, then choosing to think and speak the positive, faith-filled things He says about our lives.

One step at a time

Renewing our mind, mouth, moods and attitudes isn’t always easy, but it is possible with God’s help. I have personally been working toward this goal for almost 40 years, and although I have not arrived at perfection, I have made amazing progress. I have successful days, and I also have days when I feel like I’ve failed miserably, but I believe with God’s help I can keep growing.

If you desire greater emotional stability, and the ability to maintain a consistent good attitude no matter what your circumstances are, then make it a goal and don’t give up until you have reached it.

A walk begins with one step and then another and another. No matter how long your journey seems, if you take enough steps in the right direction, you will eventually arrive at your desired destination...and truly have the life you’ve always wanted.

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