



# Greater Friendship HERALD

SUMMER 2015

## LOOKING AHEAD...

- September 13, 4pm @  
GFMBC: Minister and  
Deacon Ordination  
Service
- September 25-26:  
Annual Men's Retreat  
Oak Ridge Hotel,  
Chaska, MN
- October 4 @ 9am:  
Marriage Ministry  
Classes begin
- October 4 @ 5:30pm:  
Music Ministry Concert  
@ GFMBC
- October 9 @ 7pm:  
MSBC Ministers' Wives  
& Widows Bowling Event  
- Brunswick/Brooklyn  
Center, MN
- October 10 @ 9am:  
All Ministry Meeting
- October 30-31:  
Annual Women's Retreat
- November 1:  
Annual Women's Day
- November 14, 9am-1pm  
@ GFMBC:  
Annual Health Fair

## Think for a Change Philippians 4:8 (KJV)

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*



Pastor Billy Russell

Everyone I know wants to change something about themselves or something about their life. I'm sure you fall into this category as well. Maybe it's your financial situation, maybe it's a bad habit you want to quit, maybe your marriage needs to be better, maybe you don't want to be single any more, maybe you need to lose weight and get in shape. These are typically things people want to change about themselves.

- ◆ Or maybe you want to make changes in your spiritual life.
- ◆ You want to be closer to God than you've ever been.
- ◆ You want to get victory, once and for all, from sin that keeps knocking you down day after day.
- ◆ Or you want to get involved in an area of ministry in which you have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.

If you think you're fine the way you are, you've set your standards too low. The minute we stop growing, we start dying. So life needs to be a constant process of change.

*Here's the problem: Change isn't easy.*

Let me qualify that a little more:  
*Lasting change doesn't come easily.*

It's easy to implement a change; you can do that on a whim – like the guy who said, "It's easy to quit smoking. I've quit a thousand times." The trick is to make it work long-term. The trick is to change your life and keep the change.

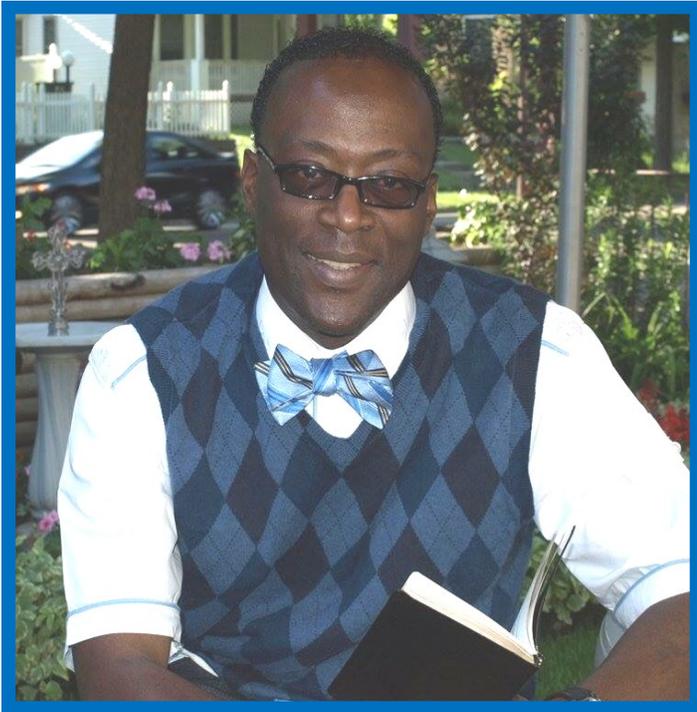
I want to talk about how you can make lasting change in your life. If you follow these Biblical principles, you will become a different person. You'll get rid of old habits, you'll breathe new life into hurting relationships, you'll walk like you've never walked before. So, I hope you'll stick around and seize this opportunity to become the person you've always wanted to become.

Today we'll look at the topic, "Think for a change." The title of this message is not to imply that you haven't been thinking.

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# Member Spotlight



*Featuring*  
**Bro. Billy Brownlee**



*Greetings! My name is Billy Brownlee and I have been attending GFMBC for about 3 years. I currently live in south Minneapolis but I am originally from the west side of Chicago. At GFMBC, I serve as an Usher some weeks when I'm not working, but enjoy offering my services every Sunday I attend church. I also participate with the Helps Ministry because I love helping others. My favorite Bible scripture is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that HE gave HIS only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God has been so good to me! He saved me from a heroin addiction of 20 years instantly without any medical treatment or medication. In addition, He has blessed me to be the store manager of Jimmy John's in Dinkytown. And now, has allowed me to be the hiring manager for 11 stores in Minnesota. Now, I can help as many people as God sends my way. If you are interested in working for Jimmy John's, feel free to contact me at 612-331-8000 or visit Jimmy John's on the U of M campus located at 404 14th St. SE, Minneapolis.*

# 2015 Church Olympics and Family Fest

## July 20-25, 2015





**We Got Soul!**

## But Whom Do You Say That I AM?

ETACOVDAEWH  
 RURETSAMFOG  
 AVRSUSEJLNO  
 WRETMWAYICL  
 VINYDAAKDDO  
 RATSGNINROM  
 DAYSTARCP T S A L D N A T S R I F O R E R U N N E R  
 EVGFNOPHHOTUJGROLESNUOCHCNARBO  
 NMPEIAGONOFUORHADUJFONOILIFEIT  
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 ELRLDRSGRHD  
 NDOFAEOERTE  
 TRPOINLVUHE  
 EEHDDRAESBM  
 RVEREOTRESE  
 EOTOLCILRHR  
 VSNLIKOA VET  
 ISGRVVNSAPS  
 GADAERBTNHI  
 WPSDRVSI TER  
 AGSGEVONORH  
 LOWORDHGSDC  
 NOITADNUOFY

Advocate  
 Almighty  
 Alpha and Omega  
 Amen  
 Apostle  
 Beloved Son  
 Bishop  
 Branch  
 Bread  
 Captain  
 Carpenter  
 Chosen  
 Christ  
 Consolation  
 Cornerstone  
 Counselor  
 Day Star  
 Deliverer

Door  
 Emmanuel  
 Everlasting  
 Faithful and True  
 First and Last  
 Forerunner  
 Foundation  
 Governor  
 Head  
 High Priest  
 Holy and Just One  
 Horn of Salvation  
 I AM  
 Jesus  
 Judge  
 King  
 King of Kings  
 Lamb of God

Lawgiver  
 Life  
 Light  
 Lion of Judah  
 Lord  
 Lord of Lords  
 Master  
 Master  
 Mediator  
 Messiah  
 Mighty God  
 Morning Star  
 Nazarene  
 Only Begotten Son  
 Passover  
 Priest  
 Prince of Peace  
 Prophet

Redeemer  
 Resurrection  
 Rock  
 Savior  
 Servant  
 Shepherd  
 Son of David  
 Son of God  
 Son of Man  
 Vine  
 Way  
 Wonderful  
 Word

# A Letter to Young Men



Dear young men,

Tell me, what is your life? Is it full of ambition and dreams of becoming the greatest? Is it mundane and mostly marked by boredom? Do you feel like some days you are up, but easily you are knocked down? Perhaps you feel invincible like an unstoppable juggernaut? Wherever you find yourself, please read on! Take heed my brothers to a word from James 4:14-15.

‘You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."’

This is the meaning of life. God created us to glorify Him by enjoying Him forever. He put people in this world for this simple overarching purpose. Do you know God’s will for your life? Do you know the plans He has for you? Well, I am not a prophet, but I do love the Bible, so there is one promise from God’s Word about your future, and the future of every Christian that I would like to share today from 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5, 7-8.

“For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. *God's will is* for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. That each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in lustful motives like the pagans, who do not know God... For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life in every way. Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.”

Then the question remains my brother; do you know the God of the Bible? How deeply do you desire Him? Are you willing to combat the temptations that bombard you from within and without? Are you fighting the good fight of faith that you may lay hold of eternal life? My desire is that of John, “I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.” I encourage you then to do three things. First, submit yourself to the teaching of your local church. Second, get around men who are mature in the Lord and just see how they live, how they interact with women, how they perform under stress, and how they choose God’s way over their own. Third, confess your sins unto God, repent, and delight in the life He has given you by the death of Jesus in your place for your sins. He is our risen Lord, and he calls you to a difficult yet wonderful life. He promises to guide you, so that when you come to your last breath, it will have all been worth it. This statement deserves your attention: those who do their own thing will lose in the end, but if you give your days on earth in obedience to the only wise & loving God, you will gain much in death. Jesus is all we have. Choose life this day!

“May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” (1 Thessalonians 3:13) Amen!

With Grace,  
*The Gospel Institute*

*Continued from page 1*

- ◆ I'm not saying "Think for a change, as opposed to not thinking."
- ◆ I'm saying, "Think for a change, as opposed to thinking for the status quo, or thinking out of habit, or thinking for the worst."

Change begins in your mind. It begins with the thoughts that you think. As James Allen said, "You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you." That's how powerful thoughts are. This is why Paul said that you are "to be made new in the attitude of your minds." (Ephesians 4:23) He also said, in Romans 12:2, "...be transformed by the renewing of your minds." The Bible tells us that if you change what goes on in your mind – if you change your attitude, if you change the way you think – you will experience transformation. It starts right here – behind your forehead, between your ears, right underneath your bald spot. That's where change begins.

Dale Carnegie said, "Remember, happiness doesn't depend upon who you are or what you have; it depends solely upon what you think." This is why Paul commands you "to be made new in the attitude of your minds..." (Ephesians 4:23)

There's no getting past it: change begins between your ears. You'll never see a permanent change in your circumstances until you make a permanent change in your thoughts. The paradox is that when you successfully change the way you think, the status of your situation loses much of its significance. When you begin thinking right, you find that externals aren't all they're cracked up to be.

Thinking right doesn't change your circumstances directly. It changes you -- it renews you and transforms you -- and the indirect result most often is that external conditions change, too. But your first focus must be on what's going in your mind. What are you thinking about? Norman Vincent Peale said, "Change your thoughts and you'll change your world." That's a secondary outcome. The primary outcome is: Change your thoughts you'll change yourself. As Paul said, "**Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.**" (Romans 12:2)

Where do we start? "Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." (Philippians 4:8)

Happiness, satisfaction, contentment, and optimism: these all begin (and end) with being made new in the attitude of your mind.

In the real world, we're bombarded with "messages" all day long. Some of them are useful:

- ◆ encouragement from friends
- ◆ words of inspiration
- ◆ uplifting music
- ◆ ideas for self-improvement

But in addition to these good messages comes a lot of clutter from the outside, tempting us to think this or do that. We may try to ignore those types of messages, but sometimes it isn't as easy as it looks.

Thank God for the Word of God. It helps us filter the messages we receive day in, day out. It helps separate right from wrong, good from bad, truth from error. Paul said, "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Philippians 4:8)

These 8 things serve as filters. If you'll think on these things, you'll discover the right messages get through, the wrong ones end up where they belong -- in the junk file.

As you go about your day today, you'll hear a significant amount of auditory spam:

- ◆ Messages telling you that you'll be happy if you live only for yourself...
- ◆ that you should seek revenge for some small offense...
- ◆ that a little bit of gossip never hurt anyone...
- ◆ that you deserve special treatment, and so on

Remember the word of God. Read it. Meditate on it. Let it filter your thought processes. Let your mind be renewed and your life be transformed by its power!

*Pastor Billy G. Russell*