

Be Renewed!

“²³be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and put on the new self—created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 4:23-24, TLV)

As *Chanukah* comes to an end, we (I) must all admit that often we do not have the “*all things are possible mindset*” spoken of in Scripture (e.g., *Matt. 17:20, Phil. 4:13*). We often have a hard time appropriating “³⁷*For nothing will be impossible with God*” (*Luke 1:37*). For some people it is not that God cannot do anything He wants – they truly believe that He can do all things, but rather will He do those things for us? During *Chanukah* we declare and celebrate that God did great miracles for our forefathers (“*she asa nissim lavoteinu...*”), but often we feel that we are not worthy of His intervention. Perhaps He is too busy for us. Even in the face of “*I am the Lord and I change not*” (*Mal. 3:6*) we have difficulty trusting that He is concerned about our affairs. During *Chanukah* we are all challenged to remove unbelief and dare ask for “*nissim gadol hayah po*” (*great miracles happen(ed) here*). Have we seen the Hand of God move in our behalf after a week of such declarations? During *Chanukah 2012, KS* experienced a great miracle when the property on Alachua CR 241 was sold even though the roof needed >\$30K in repairs releasing us from a nearly \$372K inverted mortgage. What about today’s *KS*?

Scripture reminds us that we need a renewal (metamorphosis) of our mind: “*I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy, acceptable to God—which is your spiritual service.² Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect*” (*Romans 12:1-2*). The Greek word translated *mind* is *nous* (Strong’s 3563) meaning *intellect, mind, meaning or understanding*. This is the same word used in 1 Cor. 2:16: “*But we have the mind of the Messiah!*” It is not that we had His mind (in the past), or we will have His mind (in the future) but that **we possess** (present tense) **His mind, His intellect, and His understanding**. I believe this is what is at the core of our asking during *Chanukah* for a great miracle. This is not to be a one-time event but rather an understanding we must cultivate. It is a belief that He is involved in our daily affairs and that He cares for us like Father cares for His own children on a daily basis. As such we (I) are in desperate need of a renewal of our mind so that we may ultimately prove what is the acceptable and perfect Will of God. What a great lesson He has continued to teach us during *Chanukah* – He is involved, He cares, and He is ready to act on our behalf. I know that because it is written in His Word it is so, however, isn’t it glorious to experience the “*the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” Thus, our hope can be thoroughly renewed by witnessing the strong arm of the Almighty in our congregation in our day. We can now have an *etz chayim* experience (“*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but longing fulfilled is a tree of life*” *Prov. 13:12.*) We should be able to express the fact that **a great miracle has happened here.**

Our world and our people need divine intervention. Scripture reminds us that we are supposed to have His mind (and His mindset), but I must admit that I have the world’s mindset more often than the divine mindset, which is His gift to us. We (I) operate far lower than the level that we are supposed to be at because we (I) settle for less than His Ways. *Yeshua* paid a great price to secure His benefits and it is a shame that we live and accept far less than what He willed for us to have. But this year we have witnessed miracles and have experienced his mighty power. We must now agree with *Yeshua*: “*...the things which are impossible with men are possible with God*” (*Luke 18:17*) and “*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*” (*Matt 7:11*). Do we have not because we ask not? I trust that we in *KS* are determined to be different since “*we have the mind of the Messiah!*” **Be Renewed! Shabbat Shalom!**