

**SERMON SERIES:** Renewed

**SPEAKER:** Ryan Lingbloom

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## Sermon Title

“Renewed Commitment”

## Introduction

This week, we started a brand new series called **RENEWED** to try and tackle a seemingly simple question: *What would happen if we pursued the renewal of our mind through a fresh commitment to prioritizing God's Word in our life and relationships?* With the start of a new year comes many different goals and resolutions, but establishing healthy habits and rhythms for our spiritual lives is just as important. Luckily, God through His Word has given us the means to not be conformed to the world around us, but to live as transformed and **RENEWED**. To get started this week, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- What is one New Year's Resolution you have made in the past that was difficult to keep? What made it so difficult?

## Seek the Word

Read Romans 12:2 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What does it mean to not conform to the pattern of this world? What are common ways in which we *do* conform to the world, and how can we change that?
- What role does our mind play in our relationship with God, and what does it look like for our minds to be “renewed”?

Read Proverbs 16:3 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- How does committing our plans to the Lord change the way we approach our goals and ambitions? What is something you have ahead of you that you can commit to the Lord today?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- In this passage, we are encouraged to meet together as a body of believers. Why do you think gathering with other believers is emphasized so strongly in Scripture? What does the role of encouragement play in the lives of those around us, and how can we incorporate that in the times we gather?

## Go Deeper

Oftentimes, our spiritual habits and disciplines are what anchor us to our relationship with God. They start (and often remain) healthy and focused on God's work in our lives. However, it is not uncommon for spiritual habits to become very worldly, either in their depth and honesty, or in our approach towards these habits. When looking at your spiritual habits and disciplines, where do you see places and ways that you have conformed to the world, and where do you feel God is calling you to transform and renew your mind?

## Talk About It

- The reading of Scripture is an important spiritual practice for all believers to be engaged in daily. Does reading your Bible in your own time come naturally to you or is it a struggle, and why? What steps can you take to make Bible reading a consistent part of your daily routine?
  - (If you want to be involved in the 31 Day Devotional Journey with Calvary, text “Bible Project Study 507” to 53123)
- S.H.A.P.E.: Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences. Do you think you would be able to define all of these right now? How can understanding your unique “S.H.A.P.E.” help you serve others and grow in your faith this year?
  - (If you want to start off 2025 by taking the SHAPE assessment and getting plugged in to serving your church and community, go to [calvary.ch/serve](http://calvary.ch/serve))
- Prayer is a powerful tool of/for transformation, and is something that we are encouraged to do at all times– 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says to “pray continually”. What changes can you make to deepen your prayer life in 2025?

## Wrap Up

*Reminder:* God calls us to be different from the world around us. And the reality is, despite our best efforts, we cannot do it on our own. Our halfhearted, solo attempts to live differently are often met with struggle, disheartening circumstances, and ultimately failure. But God calls us to approach our **RENEWED** lives a different way– through Him. He has given us the tools we need through His Word and Spirit, and the relationship we need through His Son to live transformed. When we take an intentional and committed approach to living like God calls us to be, our lives are **RENEWED** into something so much more than we can ever imagine.

*Challenge:* Choose one of the four commitments from the sermon: Gathering Weekly, Daily Bible Reading, Understanding Your Shape, or Spending Time in Prayer. For the next 31 days, commit to investing in one of those areas with your whole being. Engage in one (or more) of these spiritual habits with intentionality, focus, and with the support of your group and God.

*Prayer:* Close today with a prayer asking God for strength and guidance to renew our minds and hearts. Pray for the courage to resist conformity to the world and for the Holy Spirit to transform us from within. Ask for His blessing on the commitments each member has made and for His presence to be felt in our daily lives.