

**SERMON SERIES:** Renewed

**SPEAKER:** Scott Beckenhauer

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## Sermon Title

“Renewed Focus”

## Introduction

This week, we continued our 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?* When it comes to the things we focus on, it is easy to get distracted and led astray by the desires of our flesh and the allure of our world. But Christ calls us to focus on Him, surrendering our thoughts and RENEWing our minds to align with Him. When that happens, everything can change. To get started this week, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- Would people close to you call you incredibly focused, or more of a scatterbrain? Why is that?

## Seek the Word

Read Romans 8:1-6 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What does Paul mean when he says that the law was weakened by the flesh?
- What do you see as tangible differences between a mind governed by the flesh and a mind governed by the Spirit?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What is the significance of the war imagery that Paul is using in this passage?
- What does it mean to take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ?

Read Romans 8:38-39 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- How does this assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God influence your faith and actions?
- Do you believe these words? What challenges do you see in applying the entirety of this promise to your life?

## Go Deeper

“Your life will follow your focus”. This is a simple, yet powerful truth that we need to focus on in our walks with Jesus. Where our eyes and hearts are set, our lives will move towards. The challenge for the Christian is that our eyes are constantly being pulled off of the eternal Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) and onto the temporary and sinful world. Reflect on the start of your 2025: where have you noticed your focus drifting off of Jesus and how has that affected your relationship with God and others? What steps can you take to refocus on Jesus?

## Talk About It

- What conditions in your life are you wanting to change right now? In what ways can you focus on boldly living out your position in Christ in order to help change those conditions?
- How can you incorporate the practice of taking every thought captive and making it obedient to Christ in your daily routine?
- The whole priority of this week is Renewing our focus on God, aligning our thoughts on God. What practical steps can you take this week to renew your mind to focus on the Spirit rather than the flesh?

## Wrap Up

*Reminder:* The things that we focus on are what our lives align to. Like driving a car, where you look is where you will eventually end up. As Christians, we are constantly challenged to take our focus off of our fleshly and worldly desires, and instead focus on Jesus and the purpose that He has for us. When we **RENEW** our minds, take our thoughts captive, and make them obedient to Christ, our lives will follow that path to more of what God wants for us.

*Challenge:* Identify one thought pattern in your life that is not aligned with the Spirit, and actively work on taking it captive. Share your experience with the group next week.

*Prayer:* Close today by praying for each other to have the strength and wisdom to focus on the Spirit. Ask God to help each member of the group to take their thoughts captive and make them obedient to Christ, and to live out their position in Christ with confidence and peace.