



WindSock

Teaching, Modeling, and Imparting Responsiveness to the Holy Spirit for Life and Ministry.

The Logbook of Fresh Wind Ministries

TEACHING:

As a Man Thinketh

by Mike Flynn

Forty years ago I used to scoff at the “reality-denying, infantile reasoning” of the power of positive thinking, as it was called. It seemed stupid to just think positively about situations that were clearly negative. Not only was it reality-denying, it could also be dangerous to avoid the unpleasant ramifications of negative dynamics. So I simply put it in the “stupid” basket and went on with more reasonable thought patterns. The name Normal Vincent Peale drew a smirk.

But then I was filled with the Holy Spirit. That made a huge jolt in my thinking and feeling and relating and evaluating and everything else. In fact, I was sort of on the ropes for a couple of years as I tried to figure out what had happened to me. Pre-conversion thought forms and beliefs tend to remain in place until life confronts us with a situation which requires the grace of God. As we deal with that situation in faith, God sends new understandings into our minds. The result is that we move our thinking into alignment with God’s through each experience dealt with in His grace. A decade or two of this kind of experience creates a very different mindset from that in pre-conversion.

Over a dozen years ago I had another such experience--which I’ve told in a couple books. I had spent the previous winter fighting sinusitis, which had caused considerable pain. On a cold Fall ‘93 day, I had a twinge of that pain again and fear stabbed my heart with the thought that I was going to have it all winter again. “Help!” I said to the Lord. He immediately showed me a vision of myself as a field in which a satanic figure was casting seeds of illness. “Ahhh!” I responded. “What should I do?” “Re-

buke the condition,” was the reply.

I already knew that I didn’t have to feel that it would work--faith being an act of the will--so I spent several minutes rebuking that pain and its causes. Several hours later I checked in with the Lord Who said, “check your symptoms.” They were gone! And they’ve never returned.

After that I began an experiment in which my first course of action when I felt a symptom of illness was to rebuke it. I quickly became aware that I had to rebuke my thinking which was agreeing with the symptoms that I was going to be sick. At times when fear was also present, I learned to rebuke it as well. My experience has been that 99 times out of 100, the symptoms go away in a matter of hours. I’ve been sick 9 or 10 times in the last 13 years, but I’ve had symptoms of illness hundreds of times. So I’ve become a big fan of taking control of my thinking.

I read somewhere in the past few months that in her later years, Agnes Sanford strongly exhorted people to change their thinking from illness-accepting to illness-rejecting.

Then I stumbled across a book by Bill Johnson called *The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind*. Much to my surprise, I found myself agreeing with most of his points.

Just weeks ago I was chatting with another pastor, whose father has been suffering from depression. He informed me that his father’s counselor has put him on a kind of computer game that rewires the way the user thinks, and the result is that his depression has left. Twenty years ago I would have said “right!” with blatant sarcasm. But now I think it seems quite plausible. I’ve known for many years that thanking God makes for changes in one’s brain chemistry. And this seems like a similar behavior.

Well, where am I going with all this? The Bible says, “As a man thinks, so is he.” (Pro 23.7) As I’ve mentioned, thinking myself into health has worked an amazing 99% of the time. But so has thinking myself into financial health and relational wholeness and ministerial effectiveness. So has thinking myself out of trouble and danger and conflict and unfaith. It’s not that my thinking has magical powers. It’s just that our thinking frees the Lord to back it up in actuality when it is in alignment with His Word and His Spirit.

So I read His Word a lot and practice His Presence a lot. Out of that comes direction for how to think. Then, when challenges come, I must willfully discipline myself to think as the Lord leads. My testimony is that this frees Him to work very, very well.

What’s more, we can employ this kind of thinking on others’ behalf. Many have been healed/helped/changed by the thinking of those ministering to them. You could call this effective intercession.

I commend to you the determined experimentation with this manner of conduct. Consciously adopt God’s point of view towards your needs, opportunities, and difficulties and then think in agreement with Him. Let me know what happens. I look forward to hearing about sycamore trees flying towards the sea.

Table of Contents

TEACHING:
As a Man Thinketh
FreshWind Schedule
Leaders Corner
God Spoke To Me
Bits of Feedback
Response Page

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FreshWind Scheduled Events

DATE	PLACE	EVENT	CONTACT
Jan 24-26	Belleville IL	Yes These Bones Can Live Clergy conference	closed event
Feb 23-24	Oxnard CA	Camarillo Vineyard Leaders Retreat	closed event
Mar 9-11	Cambria CA	4 Fresno area Vineyard Men's Groups: Retreat	559-259-3382
Mar 23-24	Belleville IL	YTBCCL open conference on Healing	217-525-1876
Apr 11-15	Asheville NC	New Wineskins for Global Mission conference	724-266-2810
May 4-6	Ventura CA	Eastminster Pres. Ch. Parish Retreat	805-647-3757

Nov. '06 Uganda Report

Sometimes, in the flesh, I question the cost of going to Africa to do missions. This recent trip cost over \$10,000, it cost well over 3 weeks of intense time, and it cost tons of energy. Time, energy, and money are always the expendables to count up.

It took me a while to realize why I was unsuccessful at recruiting team members here in the US to go on this mission. The reason goes all the way back to the 2nd conference we did as FreshWind in 1985 when the Lord told me that if we healed all their sick and they loved all our teachings but if the ministry went home with us when we left, then we had failed. On previous trips I have been discipling Onesimus and Johnson in how to lead conferences. When nobody signed on from the US, the Lord said in my prayers: "Duh! It's because I want you to shift the full authority onto them." Then I realized anew, it's all about *them* carrying on the ministry. Even mine!

I had heard that James Munyambabazi, who was in attendance at our Training of Trainers conference in Uganda in early 2005, had produced wonderful results. So I invited him to be on our team for this event. While he was giving a talk to the participants, I learned that he has trained 1030 persons in 183 churches in his diocese, and that they are healing the sick like crazy! And I thought, "Isn't that just like God? I've always testified that He doesn't give me enough feedback to inflate my ego, but just enough to affirm that we're doing good stuff." So there I was sitting in the conference having my socks blessed off from the results of a previous conference.

The team was Onesimus Asiimwe, the Archbishop's Chaplain; then Johnson Ebong, the Provincial Secretary for Mission and Evangelism; then James Munyambabazi, the Kinkiizi Diocese Mission Coordinator; Sue Flynn; Vicky Ebong; and myself. Onesimus, Johnson, James, and I did the 15 teachings and all the team ministered in the practice sessions following the teachings.

What God did this time was also wonderful. We had a smaller group--75--because the troubles in the north are debilitating. But those 75 listened carefully and put into practice everything we taught them. In the "practice sessions" through which we led them, many were healed of numerous conditions. And in a summing up session, they testified extensively how they had been equipped in the conference. So we look forward to seeing wonderful things from their ministries.

When I told the participants that a couple hundred of you FreshWind supporters were praying for them, they cheered and clapped to the glory of God. Your

prayers worked. We all stayed well. There were no successful attacks of the enemy. The weather even behaved when we told it to. There were divine appointments, miraculous interventions, the presence of the Spirit was intense, and all were aware that we were in a God-determined moment of time that could be life-changing for the country.

FreshWind has now directly trained clergy and lay members of 21 dioceses in Uganda, and Onesimus and Johnson have trained 7 more on their own. So we have now covered 28 of the 31 dioceses. This side of heaven we'll never know the full extent of the benefits to the Lord's kingdom and people that this investment has produced. But I want you to know that **the Lord highly values your support!**

Thank you so very very much for your prayers and gifts for these missions. You've helped deploy many into Kingdom works, and you are most appreciated.

God is quite a strategist. It's not for nothing that Uganda is called "the pearl of Africa". It is central (bordered by 5 other countries). It is futuristic, often starting things that end up being given to other countries. It is politically and economically stable. The Anglican church there is widely influential. So as the Province gains more and more experience healing the sick and thus demonstrating kingdom realities, it will spread this ministry over much of the continent. We in FreshWind are highly honored to have had a significant hand in discipling them in these areas of knowledge and skill.

This causes me to praise God for those who invested in me: John Keester, Ken Allen, Agnes Sanford, John Wimber. They spent time, energy, and money on me, not knowing if their investment would pay off. This leads me to ask: who is the Lord directing you to invest in? Don't worry if they're young, green, and clumsy. God already sees what they will become--partly by virtue of your investing in them.

From Michael Bahinyoza who also attended the Feb. 05 event: "We praise God for enabling us to reach out to

10 schools. Close to 4000 students with their teachers were exposed to the message of the need to uphold the Biblical values of pre-marital chastity and fidelity. There were 866 commitments for Christ as Savior and Lord. In 2 schools, we encountered 4 students on whom evil spirits began manifesting as the team sang a worship song. It took us a while praying with them and the Lord delivered them. We need to keep in touch with them, monitoring their progress."

Leaders Corner

Topsy-Turvyness by Mike Flynn

Scripture has a number of inversions. A few examples: childlike faith gets you into heaven; servants are counted great; the poor are rich in faith; when you lose you win; love your enemies. It can be a bit daunting to try to figure them out until one adopts a Jesus worldview.

One of the most helpful things I've learned is to follow Jesus by adopting His viewpoint and making it mine. This is why I read the bible on the McCheyne plan (email me for a copy if you want) through which I saturate my thinking with the Word of God--especially through reading the gospels 4 times a year. It's why I practice the presence of God as much as I can. It's why I refuse to utilize some worldly methods in the work of FreshWind. It's why life is never boring.

Jesus seems to delight in topsy-turvynesses which overturn commonly accepted ways of doing things. "You have heard it said ... but I say unto you" is a regular occurrence. And every time it happens, we are challenged to change our viewpoint to His. This can be frustrating, daunting, and self-denying. But when you do it, He falls all over Himself to bless you for it.

In these days of seeker-friendliness we need to be on guard that we do not compromise Jesus' viewpoint as we seek to present Him to the world. This means accepting that there will be times when you'll look foolish in the world's eyes--and, alas, in much of the church's eyes also. It means biting the tongue when Jesus says to instead of blasting an offender for his offense. It means trusting that He will make it

all turn out well when you're suffering for following Him. It means acting as if *He* is the Lord instead of you or anyone else.

Part of our role as leaders is to model. Models have great power to influence others. When we model Christlike-ness we are setting forth life-changing attitudes, behaviors, and goals.

When we look at our own churches or at the whole denomination, there are severe challenges to being Christlike. When you think He's telling you to do something you think is stupid, go ahead and argue with Him. He knows what you're thinking anyway, so you might as well tell Him. But when it comes to the point of action, do what He's telling you. As I've said in my books, "obedience precedes understanding." Your obedience will free Him to bless you and part of that blessing will be comprehension of what's really at stake. You'll end up praising Him with all your heart that He told you what He wanted you to do.

God Spoke To Me

Shared by Sue Flynn

First, I would like to say, that if you don't know me, I can tell you that I don't believe I ever "hear" God speak to me. I have the kind of personality that thinks some things are just "obvious" and that anybody should come to the same conclusions that I do.

Second, I would like to share something that happened to me on our last trip to Uganda, which was in November. The person most responsible for our second and third trips to Uganda is a young man named Onesimus, his wife's name is Florence. We have become good friends.

On our first trip, the team was advised to not wear any really good or flashy jewelry. Well, my engagement and wedding rings are modest by my standards, but I decided to purchase a "plain" ring to wear while in Africa. On this last trip, about five or six days before we were scheduled to leave, I "felt" like I was supposed to give this ring to Florence. That seemed like an "interesting" thought, but nothing more, and a couple of days later, I shared it with Mike. He said some-

thing like “Really??” I just replied that I had a feeling that was what I was supposed to do.

At the end of the conference, we traveled to a game preserve for a little R&R along with the other members of the team, including Onesimus and Florence. The day after we arrived we took a short boat trip on the Nile, up river to see Murchison Falls. The following day, I mentioned to Florence that if she liked my ring, I would like to give it to her. Her response, after she closed her mouth, was “I told Onesimus yesterday that I loved your ring, and would like to have it.” I said, “No, you didn’t!” and she said “Yes I did”.

Well, I was *almost speechless*. She shared with me then that she and Onesimus had “outgrown” their wedding rings, and she had given hers to him and really missed having a ring of her own. She had been doing some extra work as a teacher and was planning to use the extra money to purchase a ring for herself. I can only say that that was one of those “tingly” moments for me. I was *sure* that it was God telling me to give her the ring and that almost never happens to me. I gave her the ring; we even took a picture of our hands, clasped, with her wearing the ring.

The next thing God told me to tell her was this: “I have to tell you, Florence,

that I think that by God telling me to give you this ring, it *might* mean that I will not be coming back to Uganda. The reason I purchased the ring was *just to wear while here*.” Now, that may or may not be true, but that is what I felt like God was saying,

I tell you this because it was such an awesome experience for me and because I want to encourage you to “follow through” on feelings, thoughts and/or impressions about something... it just could be God talking to you, That is the way I *usually* hear Him. It just *seems* to me that something might be a good “idea”. It feels completely like my own thinking, nothing “special” or “spiritual” or even “unusual”. We never know when God will use our “natural” tendencies to say something that turns out to be profound to someone else.

Bits of Feedback

“Thanks for an incredible weekend!”
--Greg O. , League City, TX

“I attended a Prayer Ventures seminar a year ago where you spoke. Yours was the first presentation that I’ve heard of the realities of signs and wonders and spiritual gifting which was really lucid. I’ve been grateful to you ever since, and often wanted to tell you so. Allow me to do so now--thank you!” --Dale F., Bloomington MN

“A few years ago you prayed for my husband Ray and I and our adopted daughter Kristen at the Catch the Wind conference. Although she was not with us when you prayed, we are very certain that a very real healing took place.” --Laura F, Albany NY

“Dear Mike: I am reading your Mustard Seed Book and enjoying it. Being from a physics background, I like experiments and also concrete examples. You have some good ones! In Christ,”
--Rev. Peter

“It took me over 2 weeks just to get through the first 55 pages (of How To Be Good) because there is so much that speaks to me of where I’m at right now. I had to go back through the pages a couple of times to highlight and underline and cry and pray... Chapters 1-4 are overly highlighted because there are so many clues to what I need to do in my growing process.” --Debra G., Camarillo CA

“Fr. Bill Murdoch, Dean of the ACN New England Convocation, was deeply moved by your message at Bishop Love’s consecration. We are ordering a DVD copy, but were wondering if we might be able to get a copy of the text of the message itself. That would be such a blessing to us.” --Barbara C. [Any who want a copy should email me and I’ll be glad to send it. --Mike]

Faith Pledge

If God has touched you through FreshWind Ministries, would you consider making a faith pledge to support FreshWind’s work? It would just be between you and God. If the money comes in, then thank God and relay it to FreshWind. Thank you.

Responses

FreshWind often donates its time and energy to foreign and domestic churches and organizations that cannot afford to pay normal honoraria and travel expenses. Many of these are missions-focused, as is FreshWind.

About 75% of FreshWind's budget comes from people like you who believe in and feel led to support what we're doing to extend the kingdom.

Here's the bottom line:

+ renewed, disciplined, and anointed people produce ministry and mission

+ FreshWind produces renewed, disciplined and anointed followers

We ask you to help us "produce" FreshWind.

We highly value all forms of aid: prayer, finances, and ministry team participation. Please look over this response form and see if the Lord would speak to you about your support of this ministry.

PRAYER:

If you would like to receive Mike's monthly Intercessor's letter and pray regularly for this ministry, please log onto www.freshwindministries.org and click on the sign-up in the lower left-hand corner of the welcome page.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

• I/we pledge: \$_____ per month for the support of FreshWind Ministries. I understand that FreshWind is a 501(c) (3) religious non-profit corporation and that I will receive regular IRS-approved statements for tax deduction purposes.

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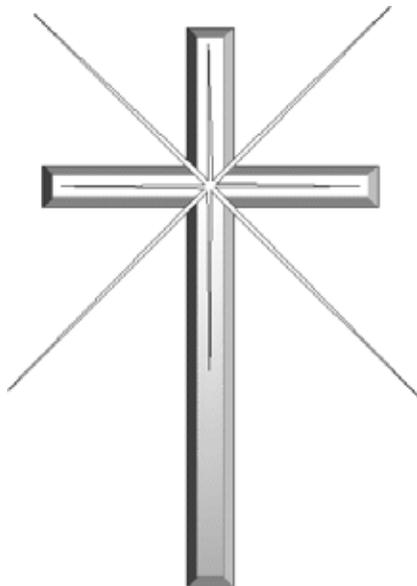
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