

The Audacious Mind TOUGH MINDED

Audacious: One that is brave, bold and courageous!

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2 ESV

**“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”
Romans 12:2 NLT**

1.TRANSFORMS OUR CONFORMITY / “Reform the Norm” - BACHAR

HOW DO WE TRANSFORM OUR CONFORMITY?

When you allow God to change the way you think! You conform any time you lack experience or knowledge and look to others to guide your behavior.

We all conform! But why? We don’t want to stand out. We don’t want to look weak. Are we unsure of what the Truth will expose in us to others?

Dr. King stated that, “we are dual citizens who live in both time and eternity. When we overly submit to the thinking and being of this time, we distance ourselves from our eternal position.”

Too often, our focus has been protecting our image when we have lacked the courage to project His!

Matthew 17:16-20 16 And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” 17 And Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. 19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” 20 He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

In *Strength to Love*, Dr. King shares this powerful point, “Jesus said their failure was caused by their unbelief. , if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you. They had tried to do by themselves what could be done only after they surrendered their natures to God that his strength flowed freely through them”

We must care less about fitting in and more about bringing people in to the faith! But that can only happen when our convictions and our faith merges with Truth of God’s Word; then, we have the power to be transformed through the renewing of our minds so that the next step of testing may prove God’s will for us

2.TRASCENDENT COMPASSION | SUPERNATURAL COMPASSION

Jesus was moved by compassion for people which was abnormal behavior based upon the social context of that time- Christ’s love was developed in absolute and radical love.

Matthew 9:35-38 ESV

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.””

When you answer the call of others- God speaks in unusual ways!

We are at a time where we do not have the luxury for soft mindedness. King says “There is nothing more tragic than to see a person who has risen to the disciplined heights of tough minded and has sunk to the passionless depths of hard heartedness.

Our compassion must be swaddled in Christ centered human dignity as we affirm that each person is created in the Image of God.

Romans 11:32ESV

“For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.”

That means that your proximity to mercy is the same as any one else. No one person, no human has more value than another. In Christ, all people have dignity, integrity, and worth.

A brave and audacious mind must be willing to champion unpopular causes and buck the status quo, as Dr. King says. Our renewed minds will be tested to see if we are able to serve societies outsiders. As you once were an outsider of God and He had mercy on you. Let’s not forget.

Have our daily habits made room to be disturbed by the continual call of the helpless? Our minds must be prepared for the harvest

3. THEOLOGICAL GROUNDING / basic training and instruction

2 Corinthians 10:5 ESV

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,” WE NEED KNOWLEDGE

2 Tim 4:3-5 NLT

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths. But you should keep a **clear mind** in every situation.

It takes courage to stand before someone and have an apologetic proposition or an explanation for the gospel. We cannot do that without the testing of our faith which now instructs us in the pleasing, perfect, will of God.

A tough mind is sharp and constantly analyzing to find truth. How do we do this?

1. Take classes – look into classes at Virginia Bible College
2. Find a mentor to study the Word with you
3. Take notes in church! (and then re-read those notes/study the messages)