

# Vicar's Pastoral Letter

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**Subject :** The Mind.

Dear Friends,

Do you ever get the feeling that there's much more to life than what you're experiencing? I'm sure that this is true for all of us whoever we are and however successful we are in earthly terms. I'm a fan of the TV programme "Dragon's Den" and I'm sure it's equally true for those five multi-millionaire investors who can so quickly make or break the dreams of those who are brave enough to appear before them. The millionaires appear to have everything that money can buy and I'm sure that this is true but are they lacking in anything: perhaps something that money cannot purchase?

Yes, they are and so are we however rich or poor we may be. Jesus said that He had come to give us life in all its fullness and the key to achieving this lies within our minds. St. Paul tells us that we must have our minds "renewed" and "transformed" by the Holy Spirit of God. The mind is a powerful and mysterious thing that largely remains unknown and is deeper than the depths of the ocean. It is a wonderful thing, a marvellous creation of God, a vast area that hasn't yet even begun to be explored. We may have landed on the moon and soar into outer space but we've barely landed on the surface of the mind. Yes, folks, believe it or not I'm talking about your mind! We haven't even begun to realise the potential of what each of us possesses.

Think for a moment of some area of your life which causes you problems and then ask yourself why you have this problem. The problem you have is largely or, more often, totally in your mind. And this is why God wants to transform our minds so that we are thinking positively and not negatively, creatively rather than destructively, thinking in terms of possibilities rather than impossibilities. How many of us have been hampered in our lives by the fact that someone, usually in our early life, has told us that things would not work out and that our dreams were impossible? God wants to change all that and He's telling you right now that "nothing is impossible for those who put their trust in Him and their faith in Jesus."

But, just in case you're wondering, I'm not simply advocating the power of positive thinking although there is a great deal to gain through this. I'm sure that those successful business people on "Dragon's Den" got where they are today on positive thinking. You can achieve a great deal through self-discipline and positive thinking but God wants so much more for us.

He, and He alone, wants to transform our minds through the power of the Holy Spirit that is at work within us. And we won't get this through self-determination or willing it to happen but through surrendering our lives more fully to God so that He and not we can change things.

How did Jesus work miracles? Because He had both the power and the mind of God or, to put it another way, because He knew He could. So, then, why did Jesus say to His disciples and why is He therefore saying to us that we can do such miracles and even greater miracles? Because He knew that we too could follow in His footsteps as children of God who are filled with His Spirit, the Spirit of God.

Do I believe that we can see miracles happening in Kempsey and Severn Stoke? I certainly do. Why? Because this is part of God's promise to us. Do I believe that God can transform our minds and enable us to have life in all its fullness? I certainly do. And when is it going to happen? When we start to believe it, surrender our lives more fully to God and claim the inheritance that is ours. God did not just call us to believe in Jesus Christ but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds into the people who will make the power and love of God a greater and greater reality upon this earth and that includes both Kempsey and Severn Stoke.

May God bless you richly as you surrender your life to Him and have that fullness of life for which your spirit longs and for which you were born.

*Peter*

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