***THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH***

The Key to Growth in Holiness is Renewing the Mind Through the Word of God. After concluding the doctrinal section of the book in Romans 11, Paul begins the practical section of the book in Romans 12 by saying this:

**Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)**

**1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, **holy**, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

**2** And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

What goes into your mind and what you dwell on in your thought life affects how you live. Proverbs 4:23 says, ***“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”*** The means of ***“renewing your mind”*** is the Word of God. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to bring about practical sanctification.

**Psalm 119:11 (NKJV)**

**11** **Your word I have hidden in my heart**, That I might not sin against You.

**John 17:17 (NKJV)**

**17** **Sanctify them by Your truth**. Your word is truth.

**Acts 20:32 (NKJV)**

**32** “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to **the word** of His grace, which is **able to build you up** and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

"This book will keep me from sin or sin will keep me from this book."

 – written on the flyleaf of **John Bunyan’s** Bible

Positionally, we (as believers) are perfectly holy; but in practice, we still have the flesh and still struggle with sin in the process of being sanctified. However, God has given us everything we need pertaining to life and godliness (cf. 2 Pet. 1:3).

What we focus on drives how we live. Stay focused on God – stay focused on His Word. This is the KEY to spiritual growth. It is a battle for the mind and only the Word can keep us on track!