

I Changed My Mind: Victorious Living Through the Power of Truth

I Changed My Mind About Reality

Pastor Jimmy Evans

Sunday, April 12, 2026

I Changed My Mind About Reality

Romans 12:1–2 NKJV

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. 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.

John 8:31-32 NKJV

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:11NKJV

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

Overview of 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:11:

1. The real us cannot be seen.
2. What is really being accomplished in our lives and in the world around us cannot be seen.
3. Our real home cannot be seen.
4. Our Lord and His kingdom cannot be seen.

Three Steps to Understanding Biblical Reality

1. Believing that truth is absolute and can be known

Acts 17:21 NKJV

For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

John 18:36–38 NKJV

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.” Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

John 17:17 NKJV

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Matthew 24:35 NKJV

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

John 14:6 NKJV

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Psalms 119:89 NKJV

Forever, O LORD,
Your word is settled in heaven.

2. Including the unseen reality of biblical truth in the way you view life and make decisions (your worldview)

Six Ingredients to a Biblical Worldview

- 1. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life.**
- 2. God is the all-powerful and all-knowing God of the universe, and He still rules it today.**
- 3. Salvation is a gift from God, and it cannot be earned.**
- 4. Satan is real.**
- 5. A Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people.**
- 6. The Bible is accurate in all its teachings.**

3. Acting up on the unseen truth of God's Word by faith when the visible and invisible are not in agreement

Hebrews 11:1-3 NKJV

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Hebrews 11:6–8 MSG

It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists *and* that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him. By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn't see, and acted on what he was told. The result? His family was saved. His act of faith drew a sharp line between the evil of the unbelieving world and the rightness of the believing world. As a result, Noah became intimate with God. By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going.

John 11:25–26 NKJV

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

2 Corinthians 5:6–8 NKJV

So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Small Group Guide: I Changed My Mind About Reality

Opening Question

When you're anxious or overwhelmed, what do you tend to reach for first — what you can see and control, or what God says? Be honest.

What Is Most Real Is Invisible

Romans 12 opens with a striking pairing: offer your body as a living sacrifice, and renew your mind. Paul links the physical and the mental on purpose. The word he uses for “conformed” — *summetheōtizo* — means to be fashioned alike, molded into a shape from outside. The word for “transformed” — *metamorphoo* — is the same root as metamorphosis: a change that works from the inside out. The difference between a life that merely looks Christian and one that is genuinely transformed comes down entirely to what is happening in the mind.

Our anchor text is 2 Corinthians 4:16–5:11, where Paul makes a series of claims that cut against everything our senses tell us. The real us — the inward person — cannot be seen, and it is being renewed even as the outward body declines. What is actually being accomplished in our lives and in the world cannot be seen — our light afflictions are producing an eternal weight of glory that dwarfs them. Our real home cannot be seen. Our Lord and His kingdom cannot be seen. Paul's summary is stark: the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. **The most real things are invisible.**

This is not a comfortable claim to live by. The greatest challenge of faith is functioning in daily life based on what is unseen as though it is as real — and more important — than what we can see. That challenge has a name: Pilate voiced it when he asked Jesus, “What is truth?” He was not the last to ask it. Postmodernism — the belief that truth is relative, personal, and unknowable in any absolute sense — is not a new philosophy. It is essentially what the Athenians were doing in Acts 17, spending their days telling and hearing new things, chasing the next idea. The belief systems prevailing in much of contemporary culture are the same ones that historically preceded the collapse of Rome and Greece.

Against that backdrop, Jesus' claims are remarkable in their directness. He does not say He has found the truth or teaches the truth. He says He **is the truth** (John 14:6). His word, He says, is settled in heaven forever and will outlast the universe itself (Psalm 119:89; Matthew 24:35). These are not the words of a moral teacher offering one perspective among many.

The three steps to understanding biblical reality move from belief to worldview to action. Step one is accepting that truth is absolute and can be known. Step two is

allowing that truth to shape the worldview through which you interpret everything else. According to George Barna's research, only 9% of born-again Christians in America hold a genuinely biblical worldview, and just 2% among Christian youth. His diagnosis: people do not act like Jesus because they do not think like Jesus. Five of the six markers of a biblical worldview in your notes are beliefs in things that cannot be seen. Step three is where belief becomes faith in the active sense — faith as a verb, acting on the unseen truth of God's Word when the visible and invisible are in disagreement. Noah built a ship on dry land. Abraham left for a place he could not name. In both cases, the invisible word of God was treated as more reliable than visible circumstance. That is the model.

For Discussion

1. Romans 12:2 describes two forces at work on the mind: conforming pressure from the world, and transforming renewal from God's truth. Which of those do you feel more acutely in your own life right now, and where does the conforming pressure come from most?
2. Score yourself honestly against the six ingredients of a biblical worldview in your notes. Which of the six do you hold most confidently? Which is hardest to genuinely believe rather than just assent to?
3. Paul says our light afflictions are "working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" — but only while we are not looking at the seen things. Is there something you're currently focused on that is temporary? What would it look like to hold it differently?

For Reflection:

Read John 11:25-26 again. Jesus asks Martha — and through her, each of us — "Do you believe this?" This is not a theology question, but a present-tense, personal one. Is there an area of your life where what you can see is louder than what God says? What would it mean to walk by faith rather than sight in that specific place? Share anything that surfaces with the group.