

SOURCES OF AUTHORITY

Consciously or unconsciously, we live and evaluate the world around us on the basis of some **authority**. Some of the possible sources of authority in our lives are:

Past experiences or teachings.

Present circumstances.

Reason or intellect.

Emotions.

Senses (physical).

God's Word.

As Christians, God's Word is to be our final authority. We must accept His Word as absolute truth and choose to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 1:25; 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:1-10) This is not just an intellectual exercise and cannot be done in our own strength. Renewing our minds, "putting off" and "putting on", is to be done in the context of our relationship with God. This is a life-long process that involves two steps:

1. Developing a habit of monitoring the authority source(s) by which you are operating in any given situation. Ask God to reveal to you through His Holy Spirit within you the wrong sources of authority in your life. When you recognize that you are choosing a source of authority other than God's Word, make a conscious choice to "put off" the specific thought, belief or action that seems true according to the old source of authority. For example, failure on a test at school might be interpreted as confirmation of a belief that you **are** a failure based upon the present circumstance, past experiences and emotions as your sources of authority.
2. Making a choice to "put on" God's Word as your new source of authority. This means choosing to accept God's Word as truth in every situation even if it doesn't appear to be or doesn't feel true. In the example of failure on a test you would choose to believe what God's Word says about you, that is, you are not a failure, you are God's workmanship and He makes you adequate even though you may not **feel** like this is true.