

THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

ROMANS 12:1-2

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

God offers us wholeness. Yet we have this baggage of the past that impedes our wholeness. **CONFESSIO**N of our failures opens the way for the Holy Spirit to create **CHANGE** in us. This process is the renewal of our minds.

1. Renewal begins when I face my **REALITY** honestly.
 - I take responsibility for my **BEHAVIOR**.
 - I acknowledge that there are contributing factors to my reality:
 - ❖ My Genetic make-up (DNA)
 - ❖ My environment
 - ❖ Past abusive/dysfunctional relationship(s)
2. When we evade responsibility for our behavior we live with **GUILT**.
3. Confession to God is **ACCEPTING** my responsibility for where I am. It can also be helpful to confess to someone we trust.
4. Understand that we don't beg, bargain, or bribe God for forgiveness. *Just **BELIEVE** in God's promise to us. Accept God's forgiveness and *forgive yourself*.*

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

5. We are made whole in Christ because God is **MERCIFUL** to us!