

THE BOOK OF ACTS

A NEW LAND

MARCH 8, 2026

SCRIPTURE

This was Stephen's reply: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. God told him, 'Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.' So Abraham left the land." Acts 7:2-4

Christians have left their native land (sin, death) for a new land (holiness, life). But many keep their old mindset even though living in a new land.

ROOTS OF WRONG THINKING

The mind governed by the flesh is **death**, but the mind governed by the Spirit is **life and peace**.
Romans 8:6

Some of our wrong thinking is rooted in our fallen nature.

Some of our wrong thinking is rooted in traumatic events.

"A lie believed as truth will affect your life as if it were true." Craig Groeschel

Some of our wrong thinking is rooted in upbringing.

Some of our wrong thinking is rooted in hell.

"(The devil) was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44

Neurology says a person will believe a lie if the lie is repeated enough.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish **strongholds**. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

You were given a natural mind when you were born. You were given a spiritual mind when you were born again. But you must embrace it!

Think – Believe – Feel – Act

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

REMOVING WRONG ROOTS

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:8

When you feel rejected...

God loves you and has chosen you. 1 Thessalonians 1:4

When you feel unloved...

Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." A.W. Tozer

When you feel unattractive...

"Lord, I feel gross. It feels like acne is overtaking my face and my hormones are all over the place. But I'm thankful that You love me just like I am. According to Psalm 139, You made all of me. My insides and my outer being. You knit me together in my mother's womb and I am Your masterpiece."

Your beauty should not come from outward adornment... but that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 1 Peter 3:3-4

When you feel like there's no spiritual progress...

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old life is gone. A new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17

And the Lord makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image. 2 Corinthians 3:18

When you feel abandoned...

God has said, "Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

When you feel overwhelmed...

"God, I feel crushed and so overwhelmed. Life isn't going the way I thought. And honestly, it doesn't seem fair! But I trust You. In Matthew 11, You promise I can bring my heaviness to You and You will give me rest. And in this moment, I need that."

When you feel defeated...

No weapon that is formed against you will prosper. Isaiah 54:17

We defeat Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony. Revelation 12:11

When you feel worried or anxious...

His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

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God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7

When you feel hopeless...

"Lord, I feel hopeless right now! But I believe the promise you gave to Israel, You have given to me. That you have good plans for me. You want to give me hope and a future! I'm choosing to shift my dystopian thinking to divine thoughts."

When you feel stuck...

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

When you feel unneeded...

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 1 Corinthians 12:7

When you feel worthless...

God paid a high price for you. 1 Corinthians 7:23

"Lord, I feel so worthless today. But I am not! 1 Peter 1 says I was redeemed with the precious blood of Christ! You see my worth and value. I choose to see it too!"

When you feel bound...

Christ has truly set us free. Galatians 5:1

He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of Jesus and forgave our sins. Ephesians 1:7

When you feel sinful or guilty...

"Father, I have sinned. Please forgive me. I feel like a sinner, but I know you see me a saint. I am loved. I am forgiven. I am Your son because of Jesus' work. And according to Psalm 103, regardless of how I feel, You have removed my sin as far from me as the east is from the west. And Romans 8 says there is no condemnation, because I belong to Christ Jesus."

When you feel distant...

"Call to Me and I will answer you" Jeremiah 33:3