The last eight months have been a fascinating journey, as I walk this road of taking over the leadership of the ministry. It has been a true rollercoaster of emotions, ranging from pure excitement to being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task ahead, and then also being utterly astonished by the experience of transformation that has taken place in my mind throughout this whole process. As the rollercoaster ride of transition is slowly reaching its next stage, I’m grateful that the feeling that remains is excitement about the task ahead, knowing that this is all due to the transformation that has taken place within me.

During this process, I have become acutely aware of how my thought patterns have changed with everyday things happening at the office. Suddenly, I thought differently and acted differently in certain situations that I knew I would not have done just a couple of months ago. I realised that the Lord is transforming my mind into what is needed for the season ahead. What was a little frightening to realise was the likelihood that had this opportunity not come across my path, the transformation would not have taken place, because it would not have been necessary.

The only other time that I experienced the transformation of my mind so intensely was in the months before I got engaged. I asked the Lord whether I should ask Hanlie (my wife) to marry me and I felt the Lord telling me no, because I wasn’t ready for marriage. I responded by asking the Lord to change in me what needed to be changed, so that I can be the husband to my wife that He expects me to be. What followed was three months of transformation that cannot be explained, but only experienced.

Going through a similar transformational experience again with the handover of leadership made me realise that the renewing of our minds that’s talked about in Romans 12: 2 is not a once-off thing, but a continuous process for as long as we live. It says:

“Do not conform 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.” (Romans 12:2)

For a long time, I have been a firm believer that one can never stop growing spiritually for as long as you live. Surely it is not possible to reach complete spiritual maturity while you walk the face of the earth. The only person to have done that is Jesus Himself. This point of view was reaffirmed for me anew throughout this process of transformation, but with this addition: that it does not only consist of spiritual growth, but the renewing of our minds as well.

There are simply too many issues and obstacles in one’s mind that need to be addressed for the renewing process to be a once-off event. As we walk our paths in a personal relationship with Christ, He continuously stimulates new growth and transforms our minds into that which is needed for the task or season at hand. But the key that leads to that growth and transformation is found in the very next verse of Romans 12, which is very seldom quoted together with verse 2.

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.” (Romans 12:3)

As long as we walk humbly before the Lord our God and acknowledge that we will always be in need of His Spirit for guidance, growth and the continuous renewing of our minds, He will continue to graciously equip and transform us for the task at hand.