

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

(Godly Wisdom – Our Compass at the Crossroads of Life)

Part 12 – Programming Your Thoughts

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Proverbs 23:7, "As a man **thinks in his heart**, so is he."

Dr. Howard Hendricks, "Nothing is more profitable than serious thinking, and nothing is more demanding."

1. Thoughts lead to _____.

Romans 12:2 (NIV) "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."

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NLT), "Throw off your **old sinful nature** and your **former way of life**, which is corrupted by lust and **deception**.²³ Instead, let the **Spirit renew** your **thoughts and attitudes**.²⁴ Put on your **new nature**, created to be like God – truly righteous and holy."

2. Protect your _____.

Colossians 3:1-2 (NIV), "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things."

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT), "**Guard your heart** above all else, for it determines the course of your life."

Psalms 119:11 (NIV), "I have **hidden your word in my heart** that I might not sin against you."

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV), "For **the word of God is alive and active**. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; **it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart**."

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV), "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

3. Remove and _____ negative thoughts.

Philippians 4:6-9 (NLT), "Don't **worry** about anything; instead, **pray** about everything. Tell God what you need, and **thank him** for all he has done.⁷ Then you will experience **God's peace**, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will **guard your hearts and minds** as you live in Christ Jesus.⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. **Fix your thoughts** on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.⁹ Keep **putting into practice** all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then **the God of peace will be with you**."

Joshua 1:8 (NIV), "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; **meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be **prosperous and successful**."

Winston Churchill, "**Success** is going from failure to failure without losing your **enthusiasm**."

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV), "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we **take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ**."